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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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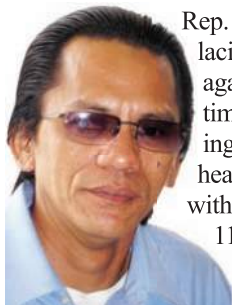
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan) pose for a photo with Koblerville Elementary School's award-winning Umang Glee Club members, along with visiting Korean exchange students, after the students sang Christmas carols in different languages in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. KES' Umang Glee Club, accompanied by coordinators Karen Alla and John Jimeno and schoolteachers, bagged for the second time the first prize in the Christmas in the Marianas caroling competition on Dec. 17.

## Rep. Palacios arrested again

### » This time for not appearing at hearing in civil case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER



Rep. Raymond D. Palacios was arrested again yesterday, this time for not appearing at last week's hearing in connection with a consolidated 11-year-old civil case.

"This court is

not without mercy and compassion but when a court issues an order, that order must be taken seriously," Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho told the 48-year-old lawmaker.

Camacho reduced the \$500 bail to \$250 cash and directed deputy court marshal Jess Santos to take Palacios into custody to the Department of Corrections.

The judge ordered Palacios to return to court today, Thursday, at 1:30pm for a show-cause hearing.

**See PALACIOS on Page 4**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

**G**ood news for low-income customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

The utilities company's lifeline tariff program has finally been approved by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, allowing the agency to give discounts to low-income households on the non-fuel portion of their monthly bills.

The program is available to anyone who currently receives benefits from the federal public housing assistance (Section 8), food stamps, Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP, Supplementary Security Insurance, National School Lunch Free Program, and temporary assistance for needy families.

These customers can expect to save up to \$2.52 on their basic monthly bill.

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## RELATED NEWS

► For more information, see CUC ad on Page 8

## 'Over 150 Congress members, staffers visited NMI'

Former CNMI lobbyist Jack Abramoff's firm, Preston Gates, became a "travel agency," organizing trips to the CNMI for over 150 Democratic and Republican members of Congress and their staffers from 1995 to 2001 as part of some \$11 million worth of efforts to block legislation that will extend federal immigration to the CNMI.

**See story on Page 6**



Abramoff

## Female tourist robbed near Palms Resort

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A female Japanese tourist was robbed by an unidentified man as she was walking along Chalan Pale Arnold Road near Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque Tuesday morning.

The 34-year-old victim was not injured but she lost her beige Gucci purse, which contained a Channel wallet, \$500 cash, dive computer watch, and a black handkerchief.

Police officer Tason Tarkong said the victim was unable to give a complete

**See FEMALE on Page 4**

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# Healthcare Corp. says \$18M 'resources' not appropriated by Legislature

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wants to tap into \$18 million in government resources it says the Fital administration originally set aside to run the former Department of Public Health.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta said yesterday that the \$18 million was actually identified by the central government to go through the hospital this fiscal year.

The funding source, however, was not released to the corporation due to either the absence of "authorization" under the budget law or the Legislature failed to appropriate it.

To this end, the healthcare corporation board yesterday approved the submission of a \$38.5-million supplemental budget to the Legislature for fiscal year 2012.

## Teen arrested for breaking into Susupe store

Police arrested Tuesday night 18-year-old Alli Baba Camacho for allegedly breaking into a store in Susupe and stealing some items.

He was brought to court yesterday on charges of burglary, theft, and minor consuming alcohol.

Superior Court associate judge James N. Camacho imposed a \$6,000 cash bail for Camacho's temporary release.

Preliminary police investigation showed that the suspect broke into the store and took some \$100 worth of beer and grocery items. The storeowner apparently was awakened by noise inside the store and called the police.

When officers came, the teenager was found hiding in the store's corner. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

The Legislature appropriated only \$5 million in seed money for the corporation this fiscal year.

Babauta said it's been obvious from the very start that the arbitrary \$5-million figure for seed money is not enough to run the corporation during the 12-month period.

"The driving force behind this action [of submitting supplemental budget] is to tap that \$18 million resources identified but was not given to the hospital," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that included in the \$38.5-million supplemental budget was the \$5 million seed money appropriated under the 2012 budget law.

"I don't know why the Legislature did not appropriate that amount [\$18 million], but my feeling is that, they stuck to the [Executive Branch] submission, which is \$5 million. Now, we have to go back to the Legislature and submit this request so we can tap these resources for the hospital. That amount was part of revenue that was identified by the central government that has come to CHC but was not appropriated," he said.

## Misunderstood

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the \$18 million has been "misunderstood."

"That figure is being misunderstood. The budget law only appropriated \$5 million as seed money for the corporation. The \$18 million being referred to is the estimated resources that the hospital is projected to collect through hospital charges. When collected, these funds stay solely with the hospital to fund its operations. This is why it is not appropriated by the budget law, because the hospital must collect it first. Clearly stated, the \$18 million is not an appropriated figure, it is a projected resource. This should incentivize the hospital's billing efforts because every dollar collected stays with the corporation and does not go to the central government's general fund," said Demapan.

If the hospital exceeds this projection and happens to collect beyond \$18 million, even the additional funds collected will serve as additional revenue for the corporation, he said, which should be gearing up to be self-sustaining beyond the \$5

million appropriation that was meant to "assist" the corporation jumpstart its operation.

As for a supplemental budget submission, Demapan said the Legislature would have to first identify what resources, if any, are available to be appropriated for the corporation.

## \$5M not enough

Acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz said there's no way the hospital could survive and maintain the delivery of quality healthcare services if the corporation relies only on the hospital's monthly collections.

On average, monthly hospital collections only amount to \$400,000—not even enough to cover the corporation's \$800,000 biweekly payroll cost, he added.

The collection can only pay for the monthly power consumption of the hospital, which amounts to \$400,000. Until collection improves, Dela Cruz said the corporation needs the government's help in sustaining its operations. He also cited the mounting files of receivables that is estimated to now reach \$131 million.

Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that the corporation received monthly allotments of \$416,000 from the \$5 million seed money.

When asked if the supplemental budget is permissible

under the law that created the corporation, both Babauta and Dela Cruz said yes, saying the corporation is considered an autonomous agency and is therefore still part of the government.

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# NMHC cagey about funding new Koblerville middle school

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is opposed to the idea of using the loan guarantee provision of the Community Development Block Grant to build a new middle school for the Public School System, saying this option is “not going to work” and will jeopardize future community projects in the CNMI.

During its meeting on Tuesday, the Housing board tasked corporate director Joshua Sasamoto and planner and grant writer Jeannie Mafnas to prepare a cost analysis report that would forecast the amount of CDBG funds that the Commonwealth will receive in the next five years.

The five-year grant projection will be based on Housing’s historical data or the amount of CDBG monies

it received within the last five program years.

Section 108 of the CDBG program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allows local governments to transform a small portion of their CDBG funds into federally guaranteed loans large enough to pursue physical and economic revitalization projects.

This provision allows public housing agencies to borrow up to five times the CDBG funding they receive every program year, with a repayment period of up to 20 years.

Sasamoto and board chair Marcie Tomokane both noted that should the CNMI avail of Section 108, it would take more than five years to repay the loan.

For program year 2010, Housing received \$824,363 in CDBG funds, 20 percent of which is subtracted

for administrative fees. This would equate to about \$3.5 million in Section 108 loan for the CNMI.

Interest rate, on the other hand, is about 6 percent as of May 2010, according to Sasamoto.

“Repayment term could be longer [than five years],” he said. “I’m sure it’s going to be longer. It’s not dollar per dollar match because of the interest. [It would] probably take at least six years [to repay.]”

Tomokane instructed Sasamoto and Mafnas to include in the report computations of the loan repayment based on 6 percent and 7 percent interest rates.

She will review the report before Housing gives a copy to the governor and PSS.

The board came up with the decision after Sasamoto informed them about a “last minute” meeting with

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, staff and board members of PSS on Dec. 20.

“The governor made it very clear. NMHC, do the project at Koblerville. Advance five years of CDBG funds and use future CDBG funds to pay that back...He said that since the beginning,” said Sasamoto.

He disclosed that it was HUD field director Mark Chandler who informed the governor that he can avail of Section 108 for the construction of the third middle school in Koblerville. Estimated cost of PSS for the project is at \$8 million.

But board members expressed many concerns, including who will pay the difference of the loan and in what form, since Housing does not

have the money to do it.

Tomokane said the report would allow the governor to “see a clear picture” of the situation. “We all have to understand that the governor has a full plate...Someone has to be responsible [for the loan] but I, for one, cannot commit NMHC because I don’t know whether we would have that money.”

Board member Tom Glenn G. Quitagua pointed out that there is a risk each year for CDBG funds “to be zeroed out” given that the amount has diminished over the years.

Another board member, Edwin P. Aldan, also asked Housing staff to clarify as to who will be responsible for the repayment of the loan balance.

## Admin prepares for possible SOCA in Feb. but will submit financial report this week

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the Fitial administration has started preparing for a possible delivery of a State of the Commonwealth Address in February 2012 as so far requested by the Senate, but will still submit to the Legislature a financial report this week to comply with the constitutional requirement.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said yesterday that they moved their requested joint session of the Senate and House from Feb. 14 to Feb. 23 to accept the governor’s SOCA.

Inos said the written financial report

he expects to be submitted by Friday or Saturday will be for fiscal year 2011, while the SOCA in February will be for FY 2011 “and looking forward for 2012 and beyond.”

“Everything that the government does is on a fiscal year basis,” he said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the state of the Commonwealth “is not a secret right now.”

“There are insurmountable challenges. We’re working hard to try to live within the resources we have now and by next year, we should have a better projection what to expect in the coming fiscal year,” he said.

The Senate adopted on Tuesday Manglona’s joint resolution asking

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to deliver his SOCA on Feb. 23.

The joint resolution, which still needs the House approval, also requests Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) to report on federal matter affecting the CNMI.

Fitial sent a written report on the state of the CNMI and its finances addressed to the Legislature in December 2010, but the last time he delivered a SOCA was in 2009.

Article III Section 9(b) of the CNMI Constitution requires the governor to report at least annually to the Legislature regarding the affairs of the Commonwealth and new measures that are necessary or desirable.

## Tinian kids also benefit from Toys for Tots

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Children on Tinian had a happy Christmas this year as they were also beneficiaries of the “Toys for Tots” toy drive of Karidat Social Services.

Karidat executive director Angie V. Guerrero said yesterday that a boxful of their remaining toys from the toy drive was sent to Tinian on Dec. 23 and were distributed to the children by board member Frances H. Diaz.

Guerrero believes that the freight and shipping expenses for the donated toys were shouldered by the Tinian delegation.

“A lot of individuals came down to our office and dropped off toys between Dec. 22 and 23 or after the two-week deadline for the toy drive,” Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*. “We had more than enough toys for Saipan that we gave the extra toys to Tinian.”

Some of the toy donors, Guerrero said, wanted to remain anonymous about their donations and just dropped them off at the Karidat office in Chalan Kanoa.

Guerrero noted that there were a lot of less fortunate families on island who went to Karidat and requested for toys for their children. She disclosed that they had two volunteers who helped

separate and match the toys with the children on their client list.

She thanked the Society for Human Resources Management – NMI Chapter for accepting the challenge to partner with Karidat for this year’s Toys for Tots. Guerrero also extended her appreciation to other businesses, organizations, and individuals who all helped make the toy drive “a great success.”

“Despite all the economic challenges, people still came through to help in our toy drive. People still have the heart to care for others who are less fortunate. We are blessed to have people in our community who possess the virtues of sharing and bringing happiness and cheers to others,” added Guerrero.

Last June 24, a 70-year-old Korean businessman sustained serious injuries when an unidentified man attacked him with a hammer and robbed him in western Garapan.

The incident occurred near the former Wax Museum of Saipan along Ginger Avenue. No suspect has been arrested yet.

Last Oct. 11, an unidentified man armed with a screwdriver robbed a Russian female tourist and took off on her rented car at Suicide Cliff in Marpi.

The tourist lost her bag containing over \$100 cash, a digital camera, hotel keys, some documents, and other items.

The victim had bruises on her elbows after she fell to the ground during the struggle. No one has been arrested yet.

## PALACIOS

From Page 1

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the lawmaker posted the \$250 cash bail and was released from prison yesterday at 1:45pm.

Palacios told the court yesterday that he thought the hearing was set for today, Dec. 29, not Dec. 22. He said he had a very hectic schedule, including attending two funerals and a wedding.

Palacios said that when he learned that the hearing was on Dec. 22, he immediately contacted attorney Michael White, counsel for Bank of Saipan, then proceeded to court yesterday morning. He asked the court to quash the bench warrant as he can’t afford to pay the \$500 bail. He promised to show up for today’s hearing.

White pointed out that there is no guarantee that Palacios will show up as he will just say that he forgot or is confused again about the hearing schedule.

“I swear [on] my Mom’s grave that I will appear tomorrow,” Palacios replied.

Palacios was not immediately arrested when he arrived in court yesterday morning as associate judge David A. Wiseman had yet to sign the bench warrant. Wiseman was conducting a bench trial on Tinian yesterday.

## LIFELINE

From Page 1

The lifeline tariff applies to the first 500kWh consumption; the regular rate applies to any amount above this usage. The lifeline tariff applies to a customer’s bill going back to June 7, 2011.

To avail of the discount, qualified customers have until Jan. 30, 2012, to apply for the program. The discount will be applied to the first billing cycle after the submission of the application and proof of eligibility.

Customers may apply in person or call the CUC customer service center or financial accounts management.

However, CUC said the lifeline rate cannot be applied to an outstanding balance owed the utilities firm.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren said yesterday that the agency has set no limit on the number of low-income customers it will serve under the new program.

“There is no cap. The cost to establish the program was fairly low; just the man hours needed to research and prepare the regulations,” he said.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that eligibility for the lifeline tariff program is

reviewed periodically to determine if customers are still qualified to continue availing of the discount. Benefits will stop when customers no longer meet the requirements.

Because the discount applies only to the non-fuel portion of the customer’s billing, the lifeline rate does not apply to the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC, which covers the fuel and lube oil expenses used to produce electricity.

Warren said that CUC has yet to assess the fiscal impact of the program until after its full implementation. “We really will not know the fiscal impact until everyone who is eligible has signed up, but we have estimated about \$50,000 per year,” he added.

He said the new program is “effective immediately, and for those who apply by Jan. 30, 2012, it will be retroactive to June 7, 2011.” The program, he said, has no expiration date.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that about 55 percent or some 6,000 of CUC’s residential customers consume at least 500 kWh per month.

CUC has been ordered by CPUC to create the lifeline rate for low-income families to aid them in their monthly power bills.

## FEMALE

From Page 1

description of the suspect and his getaway vehicle.

Tarkong said investigation showed that the victim was walking south along the road by the Palms Resort Saipan at 6:45am when a sedan pulled over next to her. The suspect hopped out and grabbed her purse, causing her to fall down.

The suspect got back inside the car then sped off. The report did not indicate whether the suspect had a companion at the time.

Tarkong said the Department of Public Safety and the NMI Crime Stoppers

Program are seeking help from the public for any information about the suspect.

“Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest,” he said.

Last Nov. 16, a female Japanese tourist was dragged several meters by a car when she chased a robber who had grabbed her bag along Beach Road, Garapan.

The victim, Miki Takamatsu, sustained bruises and scratches on her left arm, fingers, and right knee.

After a week, police arrested the suspect, Gustavo Meme Ybanez Jr. A few days later, police also arrested Ybanez’s cousin, Oscar Porras Jr., the alleged driver of the getaway vehicle.



# Senate passes Fund 'rollover' bill, three other measures

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

By a vote of 7-1, the Senate passed yesterday a sixth legislation that seeks to prolong the life of the NMI Retirement Fund by allowing active members to "roll over" their contributions to the defined contribution plan without a need to resign from government and not "withdraw" their contribution from the Fund as the original House bill had intended.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate amendments strike a balance among concerns raised by everyone involved—the retirees, the non-retired members of the Fund, Fund officials and lawmakers in general.

Senators believe that allowing members to withdraw their contributions from the Fund will deplete the pension agency's resources for retirees' pension.

Under the Senate-amended bill, non-retired members of the defined benefit plan will be able to refund their employee contributions regardless of years of service without penalty and without the need to sever employment with government, and roll them over to the DC plan that senators say is like a 401(k) program.

This way, active members who choose to roll over their contributions will still have their contributions intact under the DC plan if and when the Fund collapses.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) offered separate floor amendments that members adopted before acting on the main motion to pass the measure.

The amended bill—House Bill 17-226, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1—now goes back to the House to act on the Senate amendments.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), author of HB 17-226, said yesterday he has yet to see the Senate's amendments to his bill so he can't say whether he agrees or not with the version that's coming back to the House.

Manglona, in an interview, said that HB 226 will address concerns of active Fund members who fear losing their retirement contributions by giving them an option to roll over to the DC plan to protect their contributions that they would need in their golden years.

## Hardship loan

Manglona said the Senate is aware of other active members who want to withdraw their money so they would have instant cash, and this was addressed in the bill by allowing members to borrow up to 50 percent of their contributions under the "hardship loans" program.

"That means medical needs and postsecondary education needs for their kids so in a way you have access to cash because you can borrow up to 50 percent of whatever that goes into your DC. That wasn't there before," Manglona said.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), the only senator who voted "no" to the bill, said the bills and initiatives passed are not enough to save the Fund but are only "band aid solutions."

"We failed miserably because

we're not doing enough to save the Retirement Fund," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes reiterated that passing a bill allowing casinos to legally operate in the CNMI will help prolong the Fund's life, along with the restoration of 80 hours biweekly among government employees and the payment of land compensations.

"I believe it's time now that we start being flexible enough to understand the Retirement Fund is in desperate need of being saved. We haven't tried casino. If it goes down underwater and we can't save it [Fund] anymore, I want to be able to say that at least

we have tried casino because if we don't, I'm going to regret that I did not even make an attempt to try to save it because right now we're not doing everything that we can," he said.

Manglona said the catch is that if non-retired Fund members withdraw their contributions and roll over to the DC plan, the government employer contribution will remain with the Fund.

Non-retired members of the Fund, led by Joe Pangelinan, pushed for the passage of the original bill but were open to a compromise of allowing 50 percent of their contributions to be withdrawn.

Larry Cabrera, chair of the Commonwealth Retirees Association, in speaking before

senators, recommended floating a multimillion bond to help the Fund.

## 3 other bills passed

The Senate passed three other bills during their last session for the year yesterday.

These include Sen. Luis Crisostimo's (Ind-Saipan) Senate Bill 17-46, SD1, Rep. Ray Yumul's (R-Saipan) HB 17-139, HD2, and Sen. Henry San Nicolas' (Cov-Tinian) SB 17-74.

The three bills passed by a vote of 8-0 each. Crisostimo was still absent yesterday for medical reasons.

Crisostimo's SB 17-46, SD1 requires the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to pay or credit landowners for easements and

takings or permit an affected landowner to use CUC services pending resolution of their land compensation. The bill now goes to the House.

Yumul's HB 17-139, HD2 allows the government to have access to dormant and inactive bank accounts and unclaimed funds, and is considered a revenue-generating measure. This bill now goes to the governor.

San Nicolas' SB 17-74, meanwhile, reduces the fees for agricultural leases on Tinian from \$5 to \$3 per hectare, or from \$50/\$100 a year depending on the property rental size to only \$25 a year. This reduction does not apply to anyone who has a business license to sell produce or meat. The bill goes to the House.



Manglona

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana  
Ofisinan I Gubietno  
Dipáttamenton I Tano' Pubpliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 047 L 02, containing an area of approximately 49,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Naftan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The prospective lessee is Eco Island Development, LLC. The Members of the Limited Liability Company are Mr. Herman P. Sablan and Ms. Shen Yen.
- iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Herman P. Sablan.
- iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a solar photovoltaic power plant.  
  
The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.  
  
The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Naftan, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before January 5, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN INEKSTENDIN INATKILON TANU' PUBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku guini ha nā'i nutisia ni intensiō-ña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tānu' pubpliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha hāyi na pattida siha gi halum i pubpliku henerāt siña ha na'hālum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tānu' pubpliku. Sigi mās mo'na mapribeniyi ginin i Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimānda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I maproponi na atkilon tānu' pubpliku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. Lot No. 047 L 02, ni kinonsisti āria kási guaha 49,000 square meters, mās pat menus, ni gaigi giya Naftan, Saipan. I kopian i lugāt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.
- ii. I manatkikila i Eco Island Development, LCC. I miembru siha gi Liability Company si Siñot Herman P. Sablan yan si Siñora Shen Yen.
- iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Herman P. Sablan.
- iv. I manatkikila debi na u kuntinuha umusa i lugāt siha uniku para i hinangai adilāntu yan minanehan solar photovoltaic power plant.  
  
I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon sa' 25 āñus, yan option para u ma'ekstendi i atkilon gi ta'lu 15 āñus.  
  
I maproponi na āpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durāntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedāt.
- v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pubpliku siha tāya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' puppliku siha giya Naftan, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritāriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pubpliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Ineru (January) 5, 2012 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tānu' Pubpliku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammatat igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téel Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong jaar mángemáng , data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééól.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwaári Lot No. 047 L 02 ebwe yoor faaigh me tiwoow saangaras lapal (49,000 square meters) elapeló me ngäre eghús, elo Naftan, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Eco Islands Development, LLC. Membrol Limited Liability Company yeel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan me Ms. Shen Yen.
- iii. Schóól awewee akkilon yel nge Mr. Herman P. Sablan.
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááyá falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me mwóghutagheli solar photovoltaic power plant.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon lól ráágh kka re akkitali nge ebwe mwiril sáangi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw.

Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

- v. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Naftan, Seipél.
- vi. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mángemáng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Eneero (January) 5, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Abramoff: Over 150 Congress members, staffers visited NMI

» ‘Lobby form became travel agency for visiting delegations’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Convicted felon and former CNMI lobbyist Jack Abramoff said his former lobby firm Preston Gates became a “travel agency,” organizing trips to the CNMI for over 150 Democratic and Republican members of Congress and their staffers from 1995 to 2001 as part of some \$11 million worth of efforts to block legislation that will extend federal immigration to the CNMI.

Abramoff said they couldn’t bring the CNMI to Washington, D.C. so they had to bring the nation’s capital to the islands.

Abramoff’s lobby firm organized the trips not only for those friendly to the CNMI, but also for those they considered enemies for pushing federalization of the CNMI.

These “travelers” included Reps. Tom DeLay, George Miller, and Dana Rohrabacher.

The CNMI-funded, Preston Gates-organized trips by congressional members and staffers were meant to counter the negative attacks on the CNMI by those who wanted to federalize CNMI immigration.

By having U.S. lawmakers and their staffers make the long trip, they would be able to see for themselves that the accusations against the CNMI were “overblown and political,” and they would therefore be able to defend the CNMI when they go back to D.C., Abramoff said.

Thus, “for the next few years, our firm became a travel

agency,” he said.

“We organized trips to the Marianas for every congressman and staff member who would go. Since the CNMI was not exactly just down the street, and required full day of travel just to get there, we had to work hard to get people on the planes. But when we were done, over 150 members and staff touched down on Saipan and got to see the place for themselves,” Abramoff said.

All these are laid out in Abramoff’s new book, *Capitol Punishment: The Hard Truth about Washington Corruption from America’s Most Notorious Lobbyist*, which devoted several pages related to their lobby efforts on behalf of the CNMI. Proceeds from the book will help Abramoff pay for \$23 million in restitution that he must pay to American Indian tribes.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and all other CNMI officials mentioned in the book have yet to read Abramoff’s book as of yesterday.

Abramoff said since the congressional ban on representatives accepting gifts, including travel, did not include governmental bodies, “the CNMI was able to pay for all these trips. They never spent their money wisely.”

While in the CNMI, these visitors met with government officials, visited garment factories, worker housing, met with factory workers, government officials, church leaders, and retired statesiders.

“Our travelers became full-

time supporters of the CNMI, resenting the media for their constant attacks,” Abramoff said.


He said while the attacks on the Republican visitors’ recreational activities were ceaseless, there was no mention at all of similar beach visits by those hostile members and staff who were attacking the CNMI.

“I personally witnessed Congressman George Miller and his staff enjoying a gambol at the beach, as did some of the media covering the island. But since Miller was the main opponent of the Marianas in Congress, his rendition of Beach Blanket Bingo drew nary a mention,” Abramoff said.

Most of these visitors also played golf in the CNMI.

“The real benefit of the congressional trips was only apparent once the representatives and staff had returned. From the end of the first trip to the Marianas during Easter recess of 1996, we had a permanent cadre on Capital Hill ready to stop any attacks on the CNMI... Whenever any representative or staff launched an anti-CNMI attack, one of the travelers would detect it early, inform us, and then usually take the lead in the counter assault,” Abramoff said.

Abramoff was convicted in 2006 of mail fraud and conspiracy and was at the heart of an extensive corruption investigation that led to the conviction of White House officials J. Steven Griles and David Safavian, U.S. Rep. Bob Ney, and nine other lobbyists and congressional aides. He was released from prison in 2010.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB12-DLNR/DFW-024**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 12, 2012 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“LEASE OF AN OFFICE SPACE FOR THE DEPT. OF LAND  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH &  
WILDLIFE – ROTA BRANCH”**


COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, THE LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PORHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.**

**THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).**

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
ACTING SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

YUHONG HE, Petitioner,	]	FCD DI CIVIL
	]	ACTION
versus	]	NO.
	]	11-0608
YUJIU PAN, Respondent.	]	SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPON-  
DENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, limwal Aweewee, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and send to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 22nd day of December, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court  
Superior Court



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB12-DLNR/SWCD-033**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.


**“GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF THE  
KAGMAN WATERSHED PROJECT – WATERWAY D  
AND SEDIMENT BASIN 2 (KWP) FOR THE DEPT.  
OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, SOIL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
ACTING SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S







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**Now Only!**  
**\$2.99**  
lb.

**US PORK  
SPARERIBS  
3DN**
**Now Only!**  
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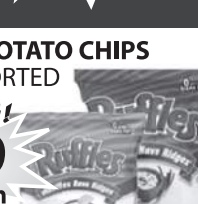
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**SHASTA COLA**  
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each

**PEPPERIDGE FARMS  
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**Now Only!**  
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**Now Only!**  
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12 pack
**PRODUCE**
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**\$3.99**  
per lb.

**CROWN BROCCOLI**
**Now Only!**  
**\$2.69**  
per lb.

**VALENCIA  
ORANGE**
**Now Only!**  
**\$1.29**  
per lb.

**US CORN  
(YELLOW/WHITE)**
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ROLLS**
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**GENERAL MERCHANDISE**
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## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



### PUBLIC NOTICE OF CUC'S LIFELINE PROGRAM

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regulates the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC). On December 13, 2011, the Commission approved CUC's Lifeline tariff which was ordered on June 7, 2011. To have the Lifeline tariff apply to your bill going back to June 7, 2011, you must submit a completed application to CUC on or before Monday, **January 30, 2012**. If your application is submitted and fully completed after January 30, 2012, the Lifeline will apply to the first billing cycle after you submit your application and proof of eligibility to CUC. Information about the Lifeline Program is as follows:

The Lifeline Program offers qualified low income households a discount on their non-fuel portion of their monthly electric utility bill. The Lifeline Program is offered to anyone who currently receives benefits from any of the following programs: Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplementary Security Insurance (SSI), National School Free Lunch Program, or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

**Limitations:** The Lifeline Program applies to customers with a usage of 500 kWh per month and under: usage above this amount will not reflect any Lifeline discount. In addition, Lifeline discounts cannot be applied to an outstanding balance owed to CUC.

**Application:** Customers may apply for the Lifeline Program in person at the Customer Service Center located on the ground floor of the Joeten Dandan Building. Customers can also call the Customer Service Center or Financial Accounts Management at (670) 235-7025 – 7032, to apply over the phone. Customers who have already provided valid documentation of eligibility (such as LIHEAP vouchers or Section 8) will be approved immediately. Those who call in and who have not provided proof of eligibility, or those where there is a question about the documentation, will be asked to drop off or mail to CUC the required document(s) following a phone call application.

### LIFELINE PROGRAM Q & A

#### What is a Lifeline?

Lifeline is a CUC program that offers qualified low income households a discount on their non-fuel portion of their monthly electric utility bill.

#### How much can I save?

You will save up to \$2.52 on your basic monthly bill. This amount equals the increase you would have paid due to the base rate increase on June 7, 2011.

#### How do I know if I am eligible?

The Lifeline program bases eligibility on whether you are participating currently in any of the following programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Supplementary Security Insurance (SSI)
- National School Lunch Free Program
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

#### Are there any restrictions?

Lifeline can only be used for the primary account holder in a household. You must establish electric utility service prior to applying for the Lifeline discount. The name on the electric bill must match the name of the household member participating on the eligible program, with the exception of the National School Lunch Free Program.

#### How do I apply?

Customers may apply for the Lifeline Program in person at the Customer Service Center located on the ground floor of the Joeten Dandan Building. Customers can also call the Customer Service Center or Financial Accounts Management at (670) 235-7025 – 7032, to apply over the phone. Customers who have already provided valid documentation to CUC of eligibility (such as LIHEAP vouchers or Section 8) will get approved immediately. Those who call in and who have not provided proof of eligibility, or those where there is a question about the documentation, will be asked to drop off or mail to CUC the required document(s) following a phone call application.

#### What proof of eligibility do I need to provide?

You will be asked for proof of your eligibility by submitting a form signed under penalty of perjury that you receive benefits from any of the qualifying programs listed above and providing a copy of any dated document which verifies your participation in one of the qualifying programs listed above.

#### How do I continue to receive Lifeline benefits?

Eligibility is reviewed periodically. Your benefits will be discontinued when you no longer meet the eligibility requirements or when proof of eligibility is not received by CUC. Customers who are no longer eligible for Lifeline benefits must notify CUC immediately.

#### Can I apply Lifeline benefits to an outstanding balance?

Lifeline discounts cannot be applied to an outstanding balance owed to CUC.

#### Does the Lifeline apply if I use more than 500 kWh hours of electricity per month?

No, the Lifeline only applies up to the first 500 kWh of use. If you use more than 500 kWh, your rate will reflect the Lifeline rate for the first 500 kWh. The regular rate applies for any amount above 500 kWh that you use.

#### When does the Lifeline start to apply to my bill?

The Lifeline goes into effect on the next billing cycle after you have applied. If your full application and proof of eligibility is submitted within 30 days of CUC promulgating and publicly noticing its Lifeline, then your bill will be adjusted back to June 7, 2011. Otherwise, your Lifeline benefits will take effect the first billing cycle after you submit your application and proof of eligibility to CUC.

#### Does the Lifeline apply to my LEAC charge?

No, the Lifeline only applies to the base rate. The LEAC charge is the cost for CUC to buy fuel and lube oil it uses to produce electricity. It is a charge passed on to each customer proportionately based on consumption. As a result, it is not reduced.

## Nearly 1,700 apply for spring financial grants

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Nearly 1,700 students have applied for financial assistance with the CNMI Scholarship Office for the spring 2012 semester—slightly higher compared to the spring 2011 semester.

CNMI Scholarship Office administrator Jackie Che disclosed yesterday that her office received a total of 1,692 applications for the new academic term. This is 134 more applicants compared to the 1,558 that applied for financial awards in the spring 2011 term.

The spring 2012 applicants are composed of 639 applications submitted by the Dec. 15 deadline and 1,020 that are considered renewable applications from the fall 2011 semester.

Che disclosed that 592 of the 639 applications are students of the Northern Marianas College. She said that off-island students were notified via their approval letter that their fall 2011 applications are still valid for the spring 2012 term, hence many did not resubmit their applications. Of the 1,053 eligible fall 2011 applications, 1,020 are renewable for spring 2012.

In total, the scholarship office received 1,020 (renewable) and 639 (new and duplicated spring 2012) applications. Che said that 37 honor applications are eligible for the spring 2012 term. Ongoing honor scholars must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0, along with other requirements, to keep their awards.

Che is pleased to see an increase in the number of students who want to pursue college education. "Even with the current economic crunch and increasing number of applicants, our scholars still see the value of applying for the scholarship," she said.

Recipients of the NMI Scholarship Office awards experienced a cut in their financial awards since the fall semester of 2011 after the board enforced a 42-percent cut in the educational assistance program, or EAP award. From previous years' \$1,200 financial awards under EAP, the amount was slashed to \$700 per student per semester starting last semester. The policy change was due to the high number of applications received for the awards.

The NMI Scholarship Office has been allocated a \$2 million budget this fiscal year, of which \$1.1 million will go to NMC scholars—both honors and EAP—while the remaining balance will go to off-island scholars.



Che

## Flashback

### A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

DEC. 29, 2000

#### GSM gets additional funds from MVA

With the reduction in monthly losses, the Marianas Visitors Authority Board has approved \$13,000 funding for the continuation of Garapan Street Market next year. Losses in the weekly Street Market project has been reduced from \$1,500 to \$1,300. So far, MVA has already spent \$12,400 from fiscal year October 2000 to December 2000 for entertainment and advertising. MVA earns a measly \$800 a week from rentals of the concessionaires and advertisement.

#### DOLI sued for denying work permit

A houseworker and her employer have asked the Superior Court to declare null and void the decision by the Department of Labor and Immigration denying the employment application of the nonresident worker. In a civil suit filed through their lawyer Danilo T. Aguilar, employer Marie F. Rimorin and her houseworker Mercedes Abubo have appealed to the court to reverse the decision of DOLI and compel the labor agency to issue a nonresident worker entry permit. On July 12, 2000, Ms. Rimorin authorized and instructed Ms. Abubo to submit an application for renewal of nonresident worker's permit and other supporting documents.

Dec. 29, 2002

#### CPA pins seaport expansion hopes on proposed measure

The Commonwealth Ports Authority on Friday warned that seaport revenues are unlikely to meet the target level because of the continued delay in the implementation of the Saipan seaport expansion plan due to the lack of additional land. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the agency's only hope is the proposed measure-now pending before the Legislature—that seeks to allow the ports authority to acquire needed public land for its planned expansion of the container yard at the Saipan harbor. Salas pointed out that House Bill 13-223, or the Port of Saipan Expansion and Development Act of 2002, would help the CPA acquire the additional land seated between the Kaiser Cement Company and the U.S. Army Reserve Office in Puerto Rico.

#### House backs Bush's anti-terrorism resolve

The House of Representatives has officially adopted a position on America's war against terrorism by offering its support to President Bush's anti-terrorism agenda. The House membership certified its stand through House Joint Resolution 13-20, which supports Bush and the people of the United States in the fight against terrorists on the home front and throughout the world. The resolution, authored by Vice Speaker Manuel A. Tenorio, condemned the "heinous, criminal and cowardly actions by al-Qaida terrorists," who are tagged responsible for the attacks in New York City's World Trade Center, the Pentagon in Washington and in Pennsylvania last Sept. 11, 2001.

Dec. 29, 2003


#### NMIRF antsy over govt's remittances

Alarmed over information that the CNMI government would be unable to remit its \$800,000 employer contribution for the Nov. 28 pay period, the NMI Retirement Fund has written to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, urging him to ensure that remittances to the Fund are kept up-to-date. The move worked—at least partially. Instead of remitting the amount on Dec. 6, the Treasury Division of the Department of Finance released the check on Dec. 16. And instead of remitting about \$800,000, which is the actual amount in employer contribution due the Fund, the division only gave \$500,000, according to Fund comptroller Noel Soria. This has prompted Fund board of trustees chairman Joseph Reyes to urge Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes and Soria in their last board meeting to write once more to the governor and express the Fund's concerns.

#### Bordallo wants more funds in fight vs brown tree snake

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo has introduced a measure in Congress to control and eradicate the brown tree snake on Guam and prevent its introduction to other areas in the United States, particularly in the CNMI and Hawaii. H.R.3479, also known as the proposed "Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of 2003," has been referred to the House committees on Resources and Agriculture. It is co-sponsored by Hawaii Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case.





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## CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

### 2012 Health Insurance Rates

**No Rate Increase  
for 2012**



**New Silver Plus Option**  
available for people with certain  
pre-existing conditions.

### DEADLINE EXTENDED 'TILL DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

CLASS	ACTIVE GOVT	MEDICAL (Bi-weekly)	MED & DENTAL (Bi-weekly)
Single	<b>STAYWELL</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>	<b>\$91.00</b>
	Aetna High Option	\$100.93	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$ 93.97	No Dental Plan
	<b>StayWell Annual savings = \$934 + Potential Refund of \$ 375</b>		
Couple	<b>STAYWELL</b>	<b>\$130.00</b>	<b>\$182.00</b>
	Aetna High Option	\$206.90	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$191.39	No Dental Plan
	<b>StayWell Annual savings = \$1,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 750</b>		
Family	<b>STAYWELL</b>	<b>\$208.00</b>	<b>\$265.00</b>
	Aetna High Option	\$322.96	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$298.78	No Dental Plan
	<b>StayWell Annual savings = \$2,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 1,236</b>		

#### STAYWELL BENEFITS

Member Refund Program  
Common Law Spouses Included  
\*100% coverage for off-island in-patient care

#### Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:

Single = \$ 1,500; Family= \$4,500

\*Some conditions apply

#### AETNA BENEFITS

No Refund Program  
Common Law Spouses Covered at Higher Rates  
70 – 80% coverage for off-island inpatient care

#### Out of Pocket Annual Maximums:

High Option: Single = \$ 4,000; family = \$ 12,000

Low Option: Single = \$ 10,000; family = \$ 30,000



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
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MEMBER

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## A huge—and long overdue—win for public health

By FRED KRUPP  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

It is one of the most important public health measures in a generation, one that will save tens of thousands of American lives. It will protect the IQ of countless American kids, and help clear the air for the millions of Americans with asthma. It may be the biggest health story you've never heard of.

I'm referring to the ruling the Obama administration unveiled Dec. 21 to control toxic mercury pollution from coal-burning power plants. These rules have been 21 years in the making, and now, at long last, they will bring Americans some relief from a pervasive toxin.

The United States has always shown good sense when taking on hazardous substances in our environment. We banned DDT in the 1970s after learning that this pesticide was killing birds of prey. We banned lead in gasoline and paint after scientific research proved it was harming our children. We joined the world in banning CFC refrigerants after scientists demonstrated they were depleting the Earth's ozone layer. And we took strong action to reduce sulfur emissions from coal plants, which were poisoning our forests and lakes with acid rain.

Now we have taken aim at another Public Enemy: mercury. The president deserves enormous credit for sticking with his plan despite furious opposition from some in the power industry and their allies on Capitol Hill.

Why is this such a big deal? For many Americans, it may come as a surprise that mercury contamination is even a problem. Moms will know that doctors warn against eating too much canned tuna, but may not be sure how the mercury gets in the fish. But make no mistake: this is a public health emergency of the first order, and it starts with coal-fired power plants.

Every year, U.S. power plants release almost 50 tons of mercury into the environment. When coal is burned, some of the mercury in it deposits locally and some can travel hundreds of miles to contaminate rivers, lakes, animals, plants and ultimately our bodies.

Mercury is highly toxic.

Mercury exposure, especially in infants and children and developing fetuses, can lead to serious neurological problems, including impacts on thinking, memory, language and fine motor skills. Scientists at New York's Mount Sinai Center for Children's Health and the Environment have estimated that mercury exposure causes reductions in intelligence for between 316,500 and 637,200 American children each year, and also cause disruptions in behavior. Most of these effects will last a lifetime.

Many of the other toxic pollutants controlled by these rules—such as chromium, arsenic and dioxin—are known or probable carcinogens and can attack the brain, lungs, liver and kidneys.

Industry lobbyists have always complained about measures to protect the environment and public health. The Clean Air Act would lead to the "collapse of entire industries," said the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in 1971. Phasing out CFCs would kill the refrigeration business. Removing lead from gasoline would mean huge price hikes.

Despite these wild predictions, the sky never fell, the American economy continued to prosper, and costs have been far outweighed by the public health benefits. The Clean Air Act, for example, has dramatically reduced asthma attacks, heart disease and other illnesses, saving trillions of dollars in health costs. In fact, for every dollar we spend under the Clean Air Act, we receive more than \$30

See A HUGE on Next Page



## I Niño Jesus

El Cristo Niño is the other acceptable phrase to describe the San Vicente manger. Think one and you are with the Hebrew Yahwist (YHWH) and the Hindu Om, embracing existence's totality.

Persia's Zoroaster distinguished light from darkness, good and evil. Greco-Roman Christians embraced the dichotomy reconciling the human and the divine in Jesus ever since Paul wrote the Romans. Athanasius of Alexandria deposed Constantinople's Nestorius on the unity of the Incarnate.

Think twos. The Nestorians hightailed it to Persia while Athanasius' colleagues defined orthodoxy. The Nestorians kept the human and the divine separate while the Roman Church insisted on the human/divine unity in Jesus Christ, thus the role mistaken for the last name!

In Rome's decline, Augustine declared *De Civitate Deus* as also The City of Man. But ecclesiastical unity would not hold. In 1054, Constantinople and Rome split over the ascendant Holy Roman Empire, leading to Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Christians hurling "anathemas" on each other. A millennium transpired before they felt their shame.

Medieval Aquinas kept the unity of Truth to encompass the natural and supernatural orders in his *Summa Theologica*; his systematic theology collapsed with the onslaught of enlightenment. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle returned and we started thinking in threes again, but with a twist. Plato's dialogue became Hegel's dialectic; synthesis after thesis and antithesis issued from contradiction. The Church already had its triune formula of *Patri et Fili et Spiritum Sancti*, but Hegel's contradictory thinking headed left in Marx, Mao, and Marcuse.

I am reminded of this thread because Christmas in China is contentless. Jesus Christ, dichotomous or otherwise, is not required. Celebrative consumerism universally abides, not dissimilar to those of other urban centers around the world.

"Blue shirts" once ran around Micronesia. We used terms like "contentless Christ," having drunk deeply in the silhouette chronology above. We were passionate about transforming self and others in order to transform society.

Queried by a Chuuk SJ whether I was still a Christian, I answered that one need not be a Christian to play the Christ game. For better phrasing from a colleague: the Christ Word or Happening does not depend on any historical tradition; it is a life process. There is no content—behavioral or historical or sociological or psychological or religious or economic—that is required for the happening to occur. It just happens, and when it does, everything is transformed.

We plumbed the depth of what is real (e.g., how do we actually learn; and designed imaginal education), and beckoned all to join the journey. A brother called it "bending history." Mapping memory with built-in inevitabilities is a Western construct, like Toynbee's waves, and Marx' triumph of the proletariat, to which Fukuyama gleefully announced to have ended with the Berlin wall.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



Freedom, not determinism, is the ethos of our time.

Polite teachers at our colloquy greeted us before the end of the term with the standard "Merry Christmas," so I pulled out my triune definition of the "contentless Christ." Our lives are caused into being by genes and memes, chanced by the vicissitudes of fate, but always offered a full palette of choices with the invitation to live life fully nevertheless. Our emphasis was on "nevertheless."

I drew two circles on the board, one shadeless but with a small shaded circle in the middle, and the other, the reverse. I labeled one as "cause" and the other, "chance." Then I drew a bigger circle around both, erasing half an arc on either side of the original circles, creating a taiji (yin-yang) image, adding arrows to indicate a swirling of the two bodies inside the circle. Where the arcs meet, I placed an "X" and announced that at the pivot point of the eternally balancing dichotomy is where one stands to live, a "choice."

We all gestalt to deduce, all count to sum. Some think in threes, e.g., triangles like the "social process" of the economic, political and cultural; others, in fours like sides, in fives like the "fifth dimension," and still, some speak of the "sixth sense." Some "blue shirt" colleagues think in 9s with 4x4 on each. That's 144 categories, too deep for our reach. But we all create overarching categories from which we spin our story.

I always add a center table with a centerpiece, and on this day, with spilled uncooked rice on shards of a cup bowl, an imaginal technique. After my cause-chance-choice routine, I moved to the table with my coffee thermos, unwrapped leftover crackers, and said, "to be eaten, crackers are broken." Uncapping the bottle, I added, "Bottled coffee is useless unless poured."

A teacher who studied in the West got wide-eyed. Laughing loudly, I distributed the "elements," called each teacher by name, and mumbled: "My broken body, my spilled fluid, always broken, ever poured out; eat, drink, all of it!" Then I raised my cup and said, "Cheers!" There was silence. We might have caused a paradigm encounter!

Got that last touch from the old TV sitcom at a Boston bar "where everyone knows your name." Something happens when one's name is called. Celebrating cause, chance and choice, at once, nevertheless, and loudly, is my "blue shirt" version of the "contentless Christ." We had a Merry Xmas!



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**Perturbation**

**P**erturbation is an interesting word that describes change, especially agitation from the status quo. A perturbation of a biological system is a change in the external or internal environment. This can occur from temperature changes, pressure changes, toxins, drugs, etc.

Celestial bodies can experience perturbation when there is a disturbance in their regular orbit because of the attraction of neighboring planets. For example, perturbations in Neptune's orbit led to the discovery of the planet Pluto, and perturbations in the orbit of stars have led to the discovery of other planetary systems.

The CNMI in general and individuals specifically are experiencing perturbation from the various activities that are impacting their normal routine. For example, the external events such as the changes in labor and immigration are affecting the personal lives of individuals and thus creating stresses that weren't there before in the lives of the individuals and their families, as well as employers and customers. Other factors that have an impact are the economy, self-serving political bills and initiatives, and world events that have a ripple effect on the islands.

**N. Korea: Absurd, cruel, tragic and dangerous**

**A**s if the world did not face enough uncertainty at the end of 2011, we received the news on Sunday night that North Korea's Kim Jong Il died. As is common for the sadly surreal nation, the information came wrapped up in confusing and absurd non-details, with reports indicating the 69-year-old died of exhaustion on a train.

North Korea, and the newly defunct Kim of the sinister Kim dynasty, have given comedians much to joke about. And they have sparked a great deal of creativity among intelligence officers with seemingly little hard information to go on. Without substantive knowledge, the West has focused on the trivial and the farcical. We knew about Kim's elevator shoes, his puffy hairdo, his love of movies and top-shelf liquor.

Underneath the laughable façade stood a cruel, horrible man.

That he died just days after we lost two of the greatest enemies of tyranny, the heroic Czech leader and playwright Vaclav Havel and the brilliant British writer Christopher Hitchens, adds a touch of irony or perhaps poetic justice to his demise.

One can only imagine, if Hitchens was wrong and there is an afterlife, what an encounter of these three souls would look like.

For those of us left here, and particularly for the North Korean people, the victims of Kim's cruelty, the aftermath of his death will first bring a period of compulsory grieving in which will we undoubtedly see them perform histrionic acts of sorrow, pretending they will miss the man they must surely have despised.

Kim succeeded cleverly in his efforts to make his miserable little country stand up to the world's great powers by building nuclear weapons. But his success served only his own purpose of maintaining a tight grip on a desperate people, while making their living conditions and disconnection from the world one of the greatest travesties of our time.

As he built up his army into one of the world's largest, and he spent the state's resources on building atomic weapons (and later sharing the knowledge with other dangerous despots) he allowed millions of North Koreans, about one in every 10, to die of starvation. The rest were reduced to boiling tree bark to stay alive, while enduring the humiliation of constantly praising the perpetrator of their torment.

But the question now is what comes next.

**A HUGE**

From Page 10

in benefits. Now some lobbyists are complaining again, about the new mercury and air toxics rule. They claim the rule will lead to blackouts and service cutbacks and cause consumers' bills to skyrocket and they complain that utilities don't have enough time to meet the new standards.

President Obama and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson were right to stand firm on this rule. The new regulations will impose some costs, but they will save far more in public health benefits. And several recent studies, including one by the respected North American Electric Reliability Corp., have all concluded that the new rules will not cause electricity reliability problems.

And here's what the coal lobbyists aren't telling you:

—Canned albacore tuna has become so contaminated by mercury that children under six should be restricted to, at most, one meal a month. Children ages 6-12 should eat no more than two meals a month.

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute

the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute

These influences cause slight to severe deviations that disrupt the status quo and puts programs, processes, and people in an uncomfortable situation that requires some adjustments—sometimes for the better. What might have worked in the past is now ineffective and a new set of strategies and systems are needed to create similar or better results.

Leaders will sometimes create perturbation intentionally to place additional pressures on their followers so that they are forced to discover new solutions. What was working in the past either isn't producing the same results or the results the leader expects. I've known several leaders who announced that they were intentionally turning the organization upside down so they could shake their people out of complacency. The mantra of "that's how we've always done it here" wasn't working and change was needed right away.

If you think about it, many of your changes from routine patterns were caused by internal or external events that bumped you out of your comfort zone. People are creatures of habit, and usually will not stray far from their areas of comfort before returning to their familiar patterns of behavior. We typically sit in the same places in classes or church, and take the same routes to work or to shop.

By FRIDA GHITIS

The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her email at fghitis@gmail.com.



A power struggle in a nuclear-armed country, no matter how buffoonish its leaders, is no laughing matter. On Monday morning, just hours after we heard of Kim's death, there were reports of missiles fired from North Korea. Despite reports that the firings had nothing to do with the momentous events, it's perfectly clear the missiles' message from Pyongyang was: Leave us alone; we're still dangerous.

In the fall of 2010, Kim anointed another Kim, his third son, then-26-year-old Kim Jong-Un, to succeed him in power. The younger Kim's greatest attribute is that he looks remarkably like his grandfather, the founder of North Korea, Kim Il-Sung, a man who is even more absurdly venerated in the Hermit Kingdom. He also looks much like a young Mao, which might endear him to the Chinese, his probable protectors.

Kim Jong-Un was educated in the West. That makes some people think there's a chance he will prove to be a reformer. He is also said to be not particularly bright. A Western education, of course, ensures nothing at all. Our knowledge of him is scant and quite possibly wrong.

And, at any rate, before anyone can reform anything they must first take power. That's the part that that creates the greatest peril. For South Korea, Japan and China, these will be delicate months ahead.

The people who truly hold power in North Korea right now are the generals. And it's a good bet there are competing power centers within the military and within the Kim family. We know there are. We don't know how many or exactly how strong they are.

There is little doubt that a power struggle will ensue, although the intensity of the competition will not be known until we see it unfold, to the extent that we see anything at all. It's already promising to be an interesting 2012.

—States in the Midwest are advising women of childbearing age, and young children, to never eat fish caught in the Great Lakes, because of contamination by mercury (among other pollutants).

—All 48 of the continental United States had mercury fish consumption advisories as of March 2011.

—Wildlife that prey heavily on fish, including loons, mink, otters, beluga whales in the Arctic and even polar bears in Greenland, are heavily contaminated.

The new mercury and air toxics rule has been in the works since 1990—long enough for the electric utilities to prepare. Many, to their credit, have done just that, and they support the new rules. But a few outliers didn't make the necessary investments, betting they could endlessly delay the new rules. They are the ones making the most noise and spending the most money. In the last two quarters alone, for example, American Electric Power Co. spent millions lobbying Congress to weaken and delay clean air rules.

Sorry, time's up. Twenty-one years is long enough to wait for such a big, life-saving win.

Fred Krupp is president of the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for McClatchy-Tribune News Service.

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rik coaches business owners to develop consistently profitable businesses that can operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.

Individuals often stay in relationships that aren't working because they believe it's too uncomfortable to change, so they will live quiet lives of desperation for years until something bumps them so far out of their comfort zone that they find it more difficult to return.

If you think about it, a breakthrough often follows a breakup, a breakdown, or a break with the ideologies of the past. It's those rare individuals with a spirit of adventure that have broken speed records, climbed the highest peaks, or discovered new worlds while the rest of humanity was trudging along in their familiar ruts. These individuals intentionally place themselves in a state of perturbation to learn new ways of thinking, make new relationships, and learn new skills that will enable them to better adapt to change.

Trying to operate in the same way while the world around us is changing will only create more stress and ultimately lead to failure. Discovering new ways of thinking, working, and relating will allow us to better adapt to the many changes that are rocking our world.

Are you a creature of habit who gets over-stressed when things aren't working the way you want them to work? When you find someone sitting in "your seat," do you get perturbed? If your usual route to work is blocked because of construction, do you get upset, or do you just go with the flow?

Do something today that is out of the ordinary or a change in your routine. We have a new year coming soon, and this is a time when many people set resolutions or goals to accomplish. Set some goals to create perturbation and break you out of familiar routines. Learn a new skill, visit a new place, and make new friends. Soon you'll make these mini-adventures a part of your life and start to look for bigger adventures that will transform you into a better and more interesting person.

**Letters to the Editor****New friends**

I recently had the honor of visiting your beautiful island. I came to Saipan to stand on the beach where my father came ashore in June of 1944. It was a pilgrimage of sorts. I came to pay tribute. He was wounded but survived the assault. He is gone now but I believe he knows I came to Saipan.

For my whole life "Saipan" meant only war and destruction, hatred and death. It was pictures in history books or film clips showing the horrors of war. Now having been to Saipan everything is changed. My travel companion—a lifelong family friend who knew my father—and I enjoyed the attention, courtesy, and yes, friendship of some people who I shall never forget. Your people in the restoration department in the Japanese blockhouse made my trip to Saipan unforgettable. Herman, Tom, Merti, John and Jay made it their job to ensure we visited every site and experienced both the remnants of war on the island and the warmth and beauty of Saipan and it's people.

Now, to me, Saipan is not just a place where my father faced death and a former fanatical enemy but it is also a place of peace and beauty. My wish for Saipan is that the traces of war finally rust away and it grows and prospers as the wonderful people of your island home so richly deserve. Saipan to me is now a place where I know people I call "friend." May God bless Saipan. *Hafa adai and todou maolek!* (I hope I spelled that correctly!)

Brian Faracy

Delafield, Wisconsin

**Impersonating Luis Hocog**

I was not responsible for the letter to the editor entitled "What are you afraid of?" that was published last Tuesday, Dec. 27. Someone alleging to be me sent that email.

Luis Hocog






Sinapalo, Rota



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79

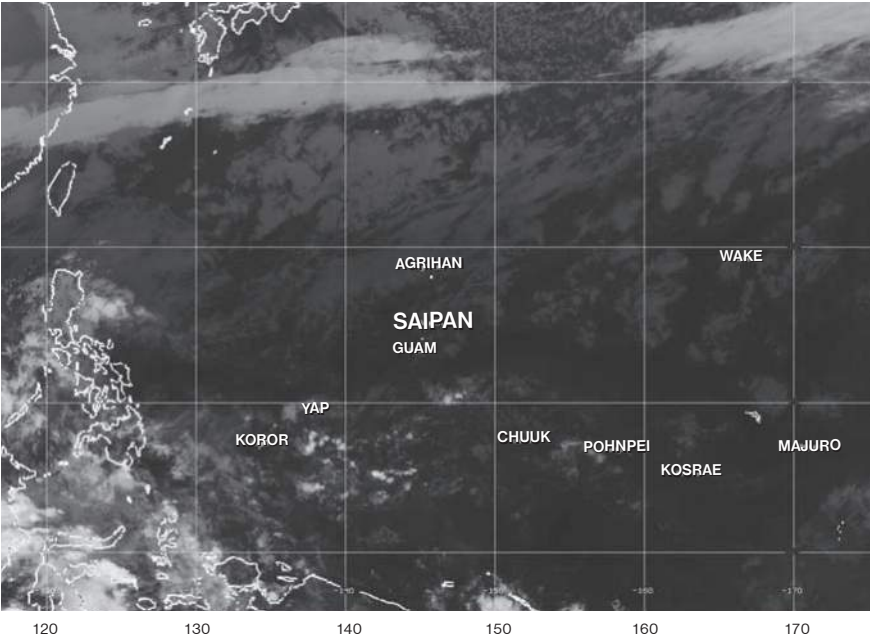
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 70 ▼ 66
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 33 ▼ 19
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 70
London	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 61
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 38 ▼ 35
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 35
Paris	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 38
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 32
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 39
Salem	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 46
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 33 ▼ 20
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 46 ▼ 37

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:40 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N173E to 21N161E then continues as a shear line across Pagan Island to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are occurring along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough stretches northwestward from 1N144E to 7N138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Yap and Koror between 3N and 10N from 136E to 144E. Converging trade winds are generating scattered showers southeast of Majuro south of a line from 4N172E to 8N180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:58 AM	10:07 PM
Friday	10:36 AM	10:56 PM
Saturday	11:14 AM	11:43 PM
Sunday	11:50 AM	
Monday	12:28 PM	12:30 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Hotel occupancy rate at 64 pct. in November 2011

## »Year-to-date rate lower than 2010

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 64.33 percent occupancy among its 12 member hotels for November 2011, a 10-percent increase from November 2010. However, so far this calendar year, occupancy is down 3 percent compared to the same period last year.

A total of 47,205 of 73,380 available room nights were sold in November 2011, compared

to 38,901 of 71,455 of available room nights sold over the same period last year.

Room rates were \$88.49 during the month, compared to \$89.17 last November.

"At one time, the Northern Marianas enjoyed occupancy rates of over 95 percent and room rates of over \$150 a night," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "To enjoy those prosperous days again, we must all work together as pri-

vate businesses, government, and individual citizens to make tourism our priority. More promotions—and a bit of good luck with the international economy—can bring tourism money back to the NMI."

So far this year, hotel occupancy is at an average 63.33 percent, well below the healthy industry indicator average of 80 percent and 3 percent lower than last year.

"Over the last year, HANMI has lost the membership of a major hotel which shut down,

and with that, we also lost a large amount of government revenue," said Nishikawa. "We see some hope for revival with new flights expected to launch next year, but they must absolutely be supported by appropriate advertising, or those flights will not survive. We should seize this lifeline while we can."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (HANMI)

## UFO turns over \$2.5K donation for Sendong victims

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
cclarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization concluded its fundraising event for the victims of Typhoon Sendong on Christmas Day, collecting \$2,500 in donations to support the rebuilding efforts for calamity survivors in the aftermath of the worst catastrophe to hit Northern Mindanao in years.

Officials of the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI led by president Bong Malasarte presented the check donation to Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig at his office on Tuesday afternoon.

Macaraig said that the Consulate deeply appreciates the financial support of the community for victims of Typhoon Sendong in the Philippines.

"I take note that these donations have been realized despite the economic difficulties of everyone in the CNMI," said Macaraig. "Filipinos and the people of the CNMI have truly made sacrifices for the unfortunate victims of the tragedy."

Macaraig also expressed his appreciation to the UFO officers and members "and everyone



Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig, fourth right, accepts the \$2,500 check donation from United Filipino Organization officers led by president Bong Malasarte, fifth right, in a brief ceremony at the Consulate office on Tuesday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

who assisted them for reaching out to everyone and organizing this fund drive."

"A lot more work needs to be done and these contributions will help in the relief and

rehabilitation efforts for these victims. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone," added Macaraig.

Malasarte said the UFO is thankful for the overwhelming

response of the community for their fundraising drive to help victims of Typhoon Sendong, which claimed over 1,500 lives with hundreds more still missing.

"With the economic down-

turn that's affecting everyone in the CNMI, the amount we collected can already be considered substantial and would definitely help at least some of the families who lost their

"I've always believed that it's better to help than be helped. Once again, I thank the CNMI community for extending assistance to the victims of Typhoon Sendong," he added.

## Ring of the bells on New Year's Eve

Nanmeido is a non-sectarian temple located at the Sugar King Park in Garapan that is dedicated to the spirits of the U.S. and Japanese soldiers and local people who lost their lives in the Battles of Saipan and Mid-Pacific in 1944. Inside the temple, a large Peace Bell hangs from the ceiling. It was donated as a wish for world peace by the Gifu Buddhist Association of Gifu, Japan in 2006.

### Joya No Kane

Joya No Kane means temple bells that signal the end of

the year at midnight on New Year's Eve. It is traditionally rung 108 times. The first 107 times are rung on New Year's Eve and the last time, the 108th time, is rung the moment the New Year arrives.

According to Buddhist belief, the 108 wheels of the temple bells represent the 108 desires of human beings. When the last wheel sounds, these desires are driven away. Thus, the New Year is greeted in a pure condition.

On New Year's Eve in Japan, people go to the nearby Buddhist temples at midnight and

ring the bell, hoping for good health and happiness in the coming year and chasing off the evil spirits.

Nanmeido observes this tradition by ringing the Hatsu-Mode (first New Year's visit to a Shinto shrine or Buddhist temple). Please take a moment visit Katori-Jinja after the Joya No Kane Service.

Please come join us on Dec. 31, 2011, at 11:45pm, at the Nanmeido (The International House of Prayer) at Sugar King Park. Please carry a flashlight. (PR)

## 'All About Saipan' guide to bring \$1.1M exposure

The popular Globetrotter Travel guidebook series returns to the Northern Mariana Islands next week to update their coverage of Saipan.

The issue "All About Saipan" will provide 288 pages of details about the destination, including tourist sites, hotels, restaurants, stores, and other island businesses and activities. The 2012 issue, including maps, will be released in April.

Published since 1998, the guidebook distributes 45,000

copies a year to readership in Japan, largely office ladies and young couples with children planning trips abroad.

The Marianas Visitors Authority expects to receive \$1.1-million worth of coverage from the guidebook and is assisting the three-person editorial team with securing filming permits.

"With recent and upcoming FAM tours from Japan and Korea this holiday season, the Northern Marianas is going to receive over \$2-million in ad exposure," said

MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "That's a gift we can all be grateful for!"

The visit of Globetrotter Travel comes on the heels of last week's FAM(iliarization) tour by Japan's SKY PerfecTV! The television station focused on casino gaming in the Northern Mariana Islands, including the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and will air four episodes filmed in the islands in March. The estimated ad exposure value is \$35,000. (MVA)



### ACTIVE PARENTING

Recent graduates of the *Active Parenting Now* parenting classes pose for a photo shoot with parent trainer Joann Aquino and DYS staff Nina Nekaifes, seated front. DYS offers free of charge *Active Parenting Now* to parents of children ages 5 to 12. The classes teach effective ways to use non-violent discipline techniques, improve communication with children, teach responsibility and other important values, defuse power struggles, and encourage self-esteem.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Uncle Chris Tomokane, who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec. 29. Enjoy your special day and many more to come! From your favorite niece, Esah Tomokane, and family in Bamberg, Germany.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Business

## Company to close at least 100 Sears, Kmart stores

**NEW YORK (AP)**—After a disastrous holiday shopping season, the parent company of Sears and Kmart will close at least 100 stores to raise cash—a move that sparked speculation

about whether the 125-year-old retailer can avoid a death spiral fed by declining sales and deteriorating stores.

Sears Holdings Corp., a pillar of American retailing that fa-

mously began with a mail-order catalog in the 1880s, declared Tuesday that it would no longer prop up “marginally performing” locations. The company pledged to refocus its efforts on

stores that make money.

Sears’ stock quickly plunged, dropping 27 percent.

The closings are the latest and most visible move by Eddie Lampert, the hands-on chairman who has struggled to reverse the company’s fortunes.

As rivals Wal-Mart and Target Corp. spruced up stores in recent years, Sears Holdings confronted falling sales and perceptions of dowdy merchandise.

Some analysts wondered if it was already too late, questioning whether the retailer can afford to upgrade stores as it burns through its cash reserves.

The sales weakness “begins and some would argue ends with Sears’ reluctance to invest

in stores and service,” Credit Suisse analyst Gary Balter wrote in a note to clients.

“There’s no reason to go to Sears,” added New York-based independent retail analyst Brian Sozzi. “It offers a depressing shopping experience and uncompetitive prices.”

Spokesman Chris Brathwaite said no one had determined which stores would close or how many jobs might be cut. He disputed doubts about the company’s survival, noting it still has \$2.9 billion available under its credit lines.

“While our operating performance has not met our expectations, we have significant assets,” including inventory, real

estate and valuable proprietary brands such as Kenmore and Craftsman, Brathwaite said.

Sears and Kmart were both retail pioneers. Sears’ catalog and department stores were fixtures of American life stretching back to the 19th century before being hurt in recent years by competition from steep discounters and by missteps that included forays into financial services and the decision to sell off a lucrative credit card business.

Kmart helped create the discount-store format that Wal-Mart Stores Inc. came to dominate.

Some customers complained that they have a hard time connecting with the Kmart and Sears of today.



Pedestrians pass a Kmart location Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, in New York. Sears Holdings Corporation, the parent company of Sears and Kmart department stores, announced Tuesday morning that it will close 100 to 120 stores after a sluggish holiday season.

## New Air Jordans cause US-wide shopping frenzy

**SEATTLE (AP)**—Fights, vandalism and arrests marked the release of Nike’s new Air Jordan basketball shoes as a shopping rush on stores across the United States led to unrest that nearly turned into rioting.

The outbursts of chaos stretched from Washington state to Georgia as shoppers—often waiting for hours in lines—converged on stores Friday in pursuit of the shoes, a retro model of one of the most popular Air Jordans ever made.

In suburban Seattle, police used pepper spray on about 20 customers who started fighting at the Westfield Southcenter mall. The crowd started gathering at four stores in the mall around midnight and had grown to more than 1,000 people by 4 a.m., when the stores opened, Tukwila Officer Mike Murphy said. He said it started as fighting and pushing among people in line and escalated over the next hour.

Murphy said no injuries were reported, although some people suffered cuts or scrapes from fights. Shoppers also broke two doors, and 18-year-old man was

arrested for assault after authorities say he punched an officer.

“He did not get his shoes; he went to jail,” Murphy said.

The mayhem was reminiscent of the violence that broke out 20 years ago in many cities as the shoes, endorsed by former Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan, became popular targets for thieves. It also had a decidedly Black Friday feel as huge crowds of shoppers overwhelmed stores for a must-have item.

In some areas, lines began

forming several hours before businesses opened for the \$180 shoes that were selling in a limited release.

As the crowds kept growing through the night, they became more unruly and ended in vandalism, violence and arrests.

A man was stabbed when a brawl broke out between several people waiting in line at a Jersey City, New Jersey mall to buy the new shoes, authorities said. The 20-year-old man was expected to recover from his injuries.



A newly-purchased Air Jordans sneaker is shown in front of a line of customers at the Nike Store at Union Square Friday, Dec. 23, 2011 in San Francisco.

## Japan’s industrial output down, unemployment flat

**TOKYO (AP)**—Japan’s industrial output dropped last month—with production, shipments and inventory figures all decreasing—but government forecasters had manufacturing and production looking for a rebound this month and next, officials said Wednesday.

The unemployment rate adjusted for seasonal differences was unchanged in November from the previous month, at 4.5 percent, the government also announced.

Industrial output dropped a seasonally adjusted 2.6 percent in November, according to the Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry. It was the first decline in two months.

It said industries contributing most to the decrease were transport equipment, information and communication electronics equipment and iron and steel. Large and small passenger cars and cellphones were among the commodities adding to the decline.

The ministry described the data as “flat,” and said manufacturing and production were expected to increase 4.8 percent in December and to increase 3.4 percent in January.

In other economic data announced Wednesday, the government said the core Consumer Price Index fell 0.2 percent in November from year-earlier figures, its second

consecutive monthly fall. The index, which does not include fresh foods, was 99.6 against the 2010 base of 100.

Core CPI for Tokyo in December—considered an indicator of future trends for the entire country—fell 0.3 percent.

In recent years, Japan has wrestled with deflation, or falling prices, which can drag on economic growth.

The ratio of job offers to job seekers was 0.69 in November, an improvement from 0.67 the previous month.

Figures released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs said there were 2.80 million people unemployed in Japan in November.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### New York Times selling regional papers for \$143M

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The New York Times Co. said Tuesday that it will sell its group of 16 small, regional newspapers to Halifax Media Holdings LLC for \$143 million. The newspapers being sold include The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, Calif.; the News Chief in Winter Haven, Fla.; and The Tuscaloosa News in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Halifax Media is based in Daytona Beach, Fla., and owns the Daytona Beach News-Journal. “The sale of our Regional Media Group will enable The New York Times Company to continue our transformation to a digitally focused, multiplatform media company,” said New York Times Co. Chairman Arthur Sulzberger. Last year, the group accounted for 11 percent of The Times Co.’s \$2.4 billion in annual revenue, according to the company’s annual report.

#### Consumer confidence index surges in December

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Americans are gaining faith that the economy is on the upswing. An improving job outlook helped the Consumer Confidence Index soar to the highest level since

April and near a post-recession peak, according to a monthly survey by The Conference Board. The second straight monthly surge coincided with a decent holiday shopping season for retailers, though stores had to heavily discount to attract shoppers. The rise in confidence jibes with a better outlook for the overall economy. An Associated Press poll of three dozen private, corporate and academic economists projects U.S. economic growth will speed up in 2012, if it isn’t derailed by upheavals in Europe.

#### Survey: Home prices down in most major US cities

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—U.S. home prices fell in most major cities for the second straight month, further evidence that the housing recovery will be bumpy and weigh on the broader economy in 2012. The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller index released Tuesday showed prices dropped in October from September in 19 of the 20 cities tracked. The decline reflects the typical fall slowdown after the peak buying season. Prices had risen modestly in April through August in at least half of the cities tracked.



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,291.35	1,265.43	2,625.20
-2.65	0.00	+0.10
-0.02%	0.00%	+0.01%

### EXCHANGE RATES

n U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9849	Indian Rupee	53.2213	Singapore Dollar	1.2979
	British Pound	0.6387	Indonesian Rupiah	9185	South Korean Won	1155.61
	Canadian Dollar	1.0201	Japanese Yen	77.809	Swiss Franc	0.9341
	Chinese Yuan	6.3261	Malaysian Ringgit	3.1662	Taiwan Dollar	30.3035
	Euro	0.7655	New Zealand Dollar	1.2934	Thailand Baht	31.55



# Nation

## As Iraq War ends, no parade for troops is imminent

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Americans probably won't be seeing a huge ticker-tape parade anytime soon for troops returning from Iraq, and it's not clear if veterans of the nine-year campaign will ever enjoy the grand, flag-waving, red-white-and-blue homecoming that the nation's fighting men and women received after World War II and the Gulf War.

Officials in New York and Washington say they would be happy to help stage a big celebration, but Pentagon officials say they haven't been asked to plan one.

Most welcome-homes have been smaller-scale: hugs from families at military posts across the country, a somber commemoration by President Barack Obama at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

With tens of thousands of U.S. troops still fighting a bloody war in Afghanistan, anything that looks like a big victory celebration could be seen as unseemly and premature, some say.

"It's going to be a bit awkward to be celebrating too much, given how much there is going on and how much there will be going on in Afghanistan," said Don Mrozek, a military history professor at Kansas State University.

Two New York City councilmen, Republicans Vincent Igniz-



United States Army Special Agent and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Sgt. Jeffrey Wood, left, arrives at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Fla., Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, after having served a one-year tour in Afghanistan.

io and James Oddo, have called for a ticker-tape parade down the stretch of Broadway known as the Canyon of Heroes. A similar celebration after the Gulf War was paid for with more than \$5.2 million in private donations, a model the councilmen would like to follow.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said last week that he was open to the idea but added, "It's a federal thing that we really don't want to do without talk-

ing to Washington, and we'll be doing that."

A spokesman for the mayor declined to elaborate on the city's reasons for consulting with Washington. Ignizio said he had been told by the mayor's office that Pentagon officials were concerned that a celebration could spark violence overseas and were evaluating the risk.

Navy Capt. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, said

that he has not heard that issue raised and that New York has yet to make a formal proposal. He also said officials are grateful communities around the country are finding ways to recognize the sacrifices of troops and their families.

The last combat troops in Iraq pulled out more than a week ago. About 91,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are in Afghanistan, battling a stubborn Taliban

insurgency and struggling to train Afghan forces so that they eventually can take over security. Many U.S. troops who fought in the Iraq War could end up being sent to Afghanistan.

A parade might invite criticism from those who believe the U.S. left Iraq too soon, as well as from those who feel the war was unjustified. It could also trigger questions about ascriptions of victory.

Mrozek noted that President George W. Bush's administration referred to military action in the Middle East as part of a global war on terror, a conflict that's hard to define by conventional measures of success.

"This is not a war on a particular place or a particular force," he said.

Bush himself illustrated the perils of celebrating milestones in the war, Mrozek said, when he landed on an aircraft carrier and hailed the end of major combat operations in Iraq behind a "Mission Accomplished" banner in May 2003. U.S. troops remained in Iraq for 8 1/2 more years, and Bush was criticized over the banner.

The benchmarks were clearer in previous wars. After World War II, parades marked Japan's surrender. After the Gulf War, celebrations marked the troops' return after Iraqi forces were driven out of Kuwait.

## Suspect in Indiana girl's death cared for her grandfather

**FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP)**—To assist her dying father, Tarah Souders made a choice: She moved her three young girls to a run-down trailer park in rural Indiana to help take care of him as his lungs rotted from emphysema.

She knew it could be dangerous. The park of about two dozen homes was teeming with convicted sex offenders, with one living at nearly every address. She worried about neighbors with sex offense records who had been helping her father get by, according to trailer park residents. And

before she arrived, she even asked her father if her children could be at risk for abuse from two specific men—including a suspect now accused in her daughter's death.

"He said, 'No. They will not touch your children. They're doing everything they're supposed to do,'" said Greg Shumaker, one of 15 convicted sex offenders who live at the park and the other man that Souders had inquired about.

Not long after they moved, police say, a horrific tragedy unfolded. Her 9-year-old



Plumadore

Plumadore told investigators that he bludgeoned her to death last week with a brick, then dismembered her and hid her head, hands and feet at her grandfather's trailer before dumping the other remains

daughter, Aliahna Lemmon, was brutally killed. Police say 39-year-old Michael

elsewhere.

Shumaker said Aliahna's family moved there to help take care of 66-year-old James E. "Shorty" Lemmon, who also was a convicted sex offender and died Dec. 3. He said Lemmon was "getting old" and "had trouble breathing."

Shumaker said he introduced Plumadore to Lemmon shortly after Plumadore moved into the trailer park, and Plumadore moved in with Lemmon a few days later. Shumaker said he knew Lemmon because they were both sex offenders and

were in jail together.

Sheriff's department spokesman Cpl. Jeremy Tinkel confirmed that Lemmon was a sex offender. Indiana Department of Correction records show he was convicted of child molesting in March 2006.

Paulette Hair, 45, a former manager at the trailer park who lives at a nearby trailer park, said she also knew Lemmon was a sex offender.

"He stayed out of everybody's way," she said. "Shorty couldn't take care of himself very well."

## Old fireplace embers caused deadly Conn. fire that killed 5

**STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)**—Two of the little sisters who died in a furious house fire early Christmas morning lost their way as a family friend tried to lead them to safety. Their other sister died just feet from escape, trapped inside as her grandfather perished during his rescue attempt. Outside, their mother frantically tried to direct firefighters to her doomed family.

Authorities on Tuesday described that chaotic scene of frantic, futile attempts to save the three girls and their grandparents after embers in a bag of discarded fireplace ashes started the accidental fire at the

grand waterfront house, which was being renovated.

"We are devastated, just like everybody else is devastated," said Brendan Keatley, a Stamford firefighter who was at the scene.

Of the seven people in the home, there were only two survivors: the girls' mother, a New York City fashion advertising executive; and a family friend who had worked on the home as a contractor and is believed to have placed the ashes in or outside an entryway, near the trash.

Flames quickly entered the house, spread throughout the first floor and licked upstairs,

trapping the girls, the grandparents, the mother and the contractor, the city fire marshal said.

That's when screams began to wake the neighborhood, soon followed by the whine of fire engines.

As flames shot from the home, Madonna Badger climbed out a window onto scaffolding, screaming for her children and pointing to the third floor.

Firefighters used a ladder and construction scaffolding outside the house to reach the third floor, but heat and poor visibility in a hallway turned them back, Keatley said.

The family friend, Michael Borcina, told firefighters on the ground that he had taken two girls to the second floor, but that they got separated because of the heat. Firefighters then returned to the second floor but again were forced out by the blaze's intensity.

"Not for (not) trying, that's for sure," acting Fire Chief Antonio Conte said.

There was somebody else trying to save the girls, too—their grandfather, Lomber Johnson. One of the girls, found dead just inside a window, had been placed on a pile of a pile of books, apparently

so he could reach in and grab her after he jumped out.

Instead, authorities say, he fell through the roof outside the window and was found dead in the rear of the house.

He and his wife, Pauline, both of Southbury, had been visiting their daughter for the holidays. The grandmother also died in the fire along with 10-year-old Lily and 7-year-old twins Grace and Sarah.

One girl was found dead on the third floor, and the body of another was found with the grandmother's at the bottom of the stairs leading to the third floor.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### **Dems scramble as Sen. Nelson announces retirement**

**LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)**—Democrats on Tuesday lamented Sen. Ben Nelson's decision to retire rather than seek a third term in Nebraska, fearing the move could give Republicans a crucial victory in their effort to reclaim control of the chamber next year. Nelson, the lone Democrat in Nebraska's five-member congressional delegation, faced a tough re-election campaign against Republicans who believed his support for President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and federal stimulus legislation would spell his downfall in the increasingly conservative state—and help the GOP gain one of the four seats they must net to take back the Senate. After months of speculation, the 70-year-old conservative Democrat told supporters he felt it was time that he "step away from elective office, spend more time with my family, and look for new ways to serve our state and nation."

#### **Authorities identify dead in Christmas shootings**

**GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP)**—A 56-year-old suburban Dallas man facing marital and financial problems killed his estranged wife, two teenage children and three other family members on Christmas Day while dressed as Santa Claus before turning the gun on himself, authorities said Tuesday. A police spokeswoman said Aziz Yazdanpanah died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound and the six others were shot to death. Police responding Sunday morning to a 911 call made without anyone on the line found the seven people inside an apartment near Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. It appeared they had been opening presents around their Christmas tree just before the attack.

#### **Lawyer: Moms stole from Hawaii toy store for kids**

**KANE OHE, Hawaii (AP)**—Single mothers filled with regret want to return items stolen before Christmas from a Hawaii toy store, according to a lawyer who referred to the theft as a "desperate" act. Surveillance footage from Dec. 1 and released by police last week showed five women and a man helping themselves to items in a Toys R Us display at Windward Mall in Kaneohe. Police said the group had hauled away about \$1,000 worth of merchandise. Attorney Myles Breiner told reporters the women contacted him after police released photos from the footage, and he said the women knew what they did was wrong. He said he contacted police over the weekend and was storing the items in his office. "They recognize they are in trouble," he told Hawaii News Now, adding that he's made arrangements with other attorneys to make sure they get representation if they are charged.



# Asia

## North Korean heir leads funeral of Kim Jong Il

**PYONGYANG, North Korea** (AP)—North Korea carried out a meticulously choreographed funeral for late leader Kim Jong Il on Wednesday and affirmed that the country was now in the “warm care” of his young son, extending the Kim family’s hold on power to a third generation.

Footage broadcast on North Korea’s state television showed Kim’s youngest son and successor Kim Jong Un walking next to his father’s hearse as it made its way slowly through cold, snowy Pyongyang. Dressed in a dark overcoat, he bowed his head slightly against the snow, and raised his right arm in salute.

Walking behind was Jang Song Thaek, Kim Jong Il’s brother-in-law and a vice chairman of the powerful National Defense Commission who is expected to play a crucial role in helping Kim Jong Un take power.

Tens of thousands of mourners stood in heavy snow as they passed by. Soldiers stood in lines with their heads bowed.



In this image made from KRT television, a huge portrait of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is carried during his funeral procession, in Pyongyang, North Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011.

Kim Jong Il, who led the nation with an iron fist following his father Kim Il Sung’s death in 1994, died of a heart attack Dec. 17 at age 69, according to state media. Kim Jong Un is already being hailed as the “supreme leader” of the party, state and army.

A private ceremony is believed to have been held earlier Wednesday in the inner sanctum of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace with Kim Jong Un and top military and party officials.

Foreign dignitaries in the city had been asked to gather at a sports stadium shortly before noon to be taken to Kumsusan to see the hearse pass at the start of the funeral procession through Pyongyang, according to a diplomat who asked that her name not be used due to the sensitivity of the details.

The young Kim made his public debut just last year with a promotion to four-star general and an appointment as vice chairman of the Central Military Commission of the ruling Workers’ Party.

But in the days since his father’s death, the campaign to install him as the next leader has been swift, with state media bestowing him with new titles, including “great successor,” “supreme leader” and “sagacious leader.”

## No-man’s land attests to Japan’s nuclear nightmare

**IWAKI, Japan** (AP)—Fukushima was just emerging from the snows of winter when the disaster hit—a 9.0-magnitude earthquake, the strongest in Japan’s recorded history, followed by a tsunami.

The wall of water destroyed much of the northeastern coast on March 11. In the northeast region of Fukushima, a different disaster was brewing: Three reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant were melting down, irreparably damaged by the super tremor.

Now, as the snows are beginning to fall again, the government has announced the plant

has attained a level of stability it is calling a “cold shutdown.” As many as 3,000 workers—plumbers, engineers, technicians—stream into the facility each day.

The tsunami’s destruction is still visible. Mangled trucks, flipped over by the wave, sit alongside the roads inside the complex, piles of rubble stand where the walls of the reactor structures crumbled and large pools of water still cover parts of the campus.

In the ghost towns around Fukushima Dai-ichi, vines have overtaken streets, feral cows and owner-less dogs roam the fields.

Dead chickens rot in their coops.

The tens of thousands of people who once lived around the plant have fled. They are now huddling in gymnasiums, elementary school classrooms, bunking with friends, sometimes just sleeping in their cars, moving from place to place as they search for alternatives.

For those who lived on the perimeter of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, fliers used to come in the mail every so often explaining that someday this might happen. Most recipients saw them as junk mail, and threw them away without a second glance.

Bartolome said. He said authorities have received “surrender feelers” from the northern, central and southern Philippines, indicating that Palparan is still in the country. Palparan tried to leave for Singapore a day before the regional trial court in northern Bulacan province ordered his arrest. Palparan has denied involvement in the disappearance of Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan on June 26, 2006. The two remain missing.

### Philippine storm death toll goes down to 1,249

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The number of people who died in massive flash floods in the southern Mindanao region a week ago was smaller than earlier reported, Philippine disaster management officials said Tuesday. Civil Defense chief Benito Ramos said that he has corrected an earlier death toll from the health department of nearly 1,500 to 1,249 based on an actual count of identified and unidentified bodies recovered by soldiers, police, firemen and other rescue workers. He said the exact number of missing could no longer be determined but the search for bodies will continue. Heavy rains overnight Monday over the eastern provinces of Mindanao have triggered floods and forced the evacuation of thousands of families, many by military helicopter, he said.

# World

## Mass protests in Syrian city as monitors arrive

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Tens of thousands of defiant Syrian protesters thronged the streets of Homs Tuesday, calling for the execution of President Bashar Assad shortly after his army pulled its tanks back and allowed Arab League monitors in for the first time to the city at the heart of the anti-government uprising.

The pullback was the first sign the regime was complying with the League’s plan to end the 9-month-old crackdown on mostly unarmed and peaceful protesters.

Yet amateur video released by activists showed forces firing on protesters even while the monitors were inside the city. One of the observers walked with an elderly man who pointed with his cane to a fresh pool of blood on the street that he said had been shed by his son, killed a day earlier.

The man, wearing a red-and-white checkered head-

dress, then called for the monitor to walk ahead to “see the blood of my second son” also killed in the onslaught.

“Where is justice? Where are the Arabs?” the old man shouted in pain.

Syrian tanks had been heavily shelling Homs for days, residents and activists said, killing dozens even after Assad signed on early last week to the Arab League plan, which demands the government remove its security forces and heavy weapons from city streets, start talks with opposition leaders and allow human rights workers and journalists into the country.

But a few hours before the arrival of the monitors, who began work Tuesday to ensure Syria complies with the League’s plan, the army stopped the bombardment and pulled some of its tanks back.

The British-based activist group Syrian Observatory

for Human Rights confirmed that government forces fired on protesters while the monitors were inside Homs and said at two people were killed from the fire.

About 60 monitors arrived in Syria Monday night—the first foreign observers Syria has allowed in since March, when the uprising against Assad’s authoritarian rule began. The League said a team of 12 visited Homs.

After agreeing to the League’s pullback plan on Dec. 19, the regime intensified its crackdown on dissent; government troops killed hundreds in the past week and Syria was condemned internationally for flouting the spirit of the agreement.

On Monday alone, security forces killed at least 42 people, most of them in Homs. Activists said security forces killed at least 16 people Tuesday, including six in Homs.

## Yemen’s leader causes headaches in Washington

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Obama administration is weighing an unprecedented diplomatic act—whether to bar a friendly president from U.S. soil.

American officials were evaluating on Tuesday an awkward request from Yemeni strongman and longtime U.S. counterterrorism partner Ali Abdullah Saleh. Saleh has said he plans to come to the United States for medical treatment for injuries suffered in a June assassination attempt, and he has asked for a U.S. visa for entry to the country. Fearful of appearing to harbor an autocrat with blood on his hands, the Obama administration was trying to ensure that Saleh visits only for medical care and doesn’t plan to stay, U.S. officials said.

Washington’s hesitation reflects the shifting alliances and foreign policy strategy

prompted by a year of upheaval in the Arab world. Saleh has served as an American ally against al-Qaida and will soon transfer power under a U.S.-backed deal with Yemen’s opposition aimed at ending months of instability. He isn’t subject to any U.S. or international sanctions.

But he also is accused of committing gross human rights violations during a year of internal conflict, and the U.S. is trying not to burn any bridges with Yemeni political groups likely to take part in future governments. Political asylum for Saleh in the United States, or the appearance of preferential treatment from an administration that has championed peaceful and democratic change, would be highly unpopular with Yemenis who’ve fought to depose their dictator of 33 years.

Officials close to the Saleh said Washington’s suspicion that he may seek political asylum was delaying approval of his trip. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. But American officials appeared to substantiate those concerns and said they were troubled by Saleh’s recent comments portraying his trip as a move designed to ease the political transition.

“What we’re looking at now is a request to come to the United States for the sole purpose of medical treatment,” State Department spokesman Mark Toner said, refusing to go into the specific of the evaluation. “That permission has not been granted yet.”

Toner declined to elaborate on the assurances the United States wanted from Saleh or offer a timetable for a decision.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Pakistani president warns top court in scandal

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—Pakistan’s president on Tuesday warned the Supreme Court not to take action in violation of the constitution, referring to a judicial hearing into a secret memo seeking to rein in the powerful military, a scandal that threatens the Pakistani leader. The political crisis revolves around a memo that was allegedly sent to Washington with President Asif Ali Zardari’s support in May asking for help in stopping a supposed army coup following the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Zardari has denied any connection to the memo. Also Tuesday, gunmen killed a senior official from the government’s Intelligence Bureau in the northwestern city of Peshawar, said police officer Imtiaz Khan.

#### Reward offered for fugitive Philippine ex-general

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine police are offering a 500,000-peso (\$11,600) reward for a fugitive ex-army general a week after a court ordered his arrest on charges of kidnapping two female student activists five years ago, the national police chief said Tuesday. The reward hopefully will prompt former Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan to surrender, Director General Nicanor

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Iran seeks death for American accused of spying

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—An American man accused by Iran of working for the CIA could face the death penalty, the semiofficial Fars news agency reported Tuesday. In a closed court hearing, the prosecution applied for capital punishment, the report said, because the suspect, identified as Amir Mirzaei Hekmati, “admitted that he received training in the United States and planned to imply that Iran was involved in terrorist activities in foreign countries” after returning to

the U.S. The prosecutor said Hekmati entered Iran’s intelligence department three times. The report said Hekmati repeated a confession broadcast on state TV Dec. 18. Under the Iranian law spying can lead to death penalty only in military cases.

#### Airport X-ray suitcase surprise: Poisonous snakes

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** (AP)—Surprised airport workers in Argentina found hundreds of wriggling poisonous snakes and endangered reptiles inside the baggage of a Czech man who was about to board

a flight to Spain. Karel Abelevsky, 51, was made to open his baggage at Buenos Aires’ international airport after police spotted reptiles in the X-ray scanner. They found 247 exotic and endangered species in all, packed inside plastic containers, bags and even socks, each labeled in Latin with their scientific names. “The airport workers couldn’t believe it when they saw the movement inside the suitcase. It was like an animated cartoon,” a source in the office of Judge Marcelo Aguinsky said Tuesday. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because the judge’s investigation isn’t complete.



## Focus

# Holiday season marked by different shoppper types

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
AP RETAIL WRITER

**F**our types of American shoppers have altered the shopping landscape this holiday season.

There's the bargain hunter who times deals. The midnight buyer who stays up late for discounts. The returner who gets buyer's remorse. And the "me" shopper who self-gifts.

It's the latest shift by consumers in the fourth year of a weak U.S. economy. Shoppers are expected to spend \$469.1 billion during the holiday shopping season that runs from November through December. While it won't be known just how much Americans spent until the season ends on Saturday, it's clear they are shopping differently than in years past.

"We're seeing different types of buying behavior in a new economic reality," says C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group.

## THE BARGAIN TIMER

Cost-conscious shoppers haven't just been looking for bargains this season. They've also been more deliberate about when to find those deals. Many believe the biggest bargains come at the beginning and end of the season, which has created a kind of "dumb-bell effect" in sales.

For the week ended on Nov. 26, which included the traditional start of the holiday shopping season on the day after Thanksgiving, stores had the biggest sales surge compared with the prior week since 1993, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers-Goldman Sachs Weekly Chain Stores Sales Index. The cumulative two-week-sales drop-off that followed marked the biggest percentage decline since 2000. Then, stores had another surge in the final days, as retailers stepped up promotions again.

"Shoppers are budgeting their money and time," says Paco Underhill, whose company, Envirosell, studies how consumers behave in stores. "They're focused on being opportunistic bargain shopping vultures."

Kalilah Middleton, 30, of Queens, is one of them. Starting late on Thanksgiving night, she spent five hours and \$400 at Wal-Mart and Target. She bought a TV and clothing at 50 percent off. Then, she waited until Christmas Eve to shop again because she believed she'd find lower prices later in the season.

"This is when you get the best deals," says Middleton, an office manager, about her holiday shopping.

Shoppers expect even bigger discounts later in the season. According to America's Research Group, about one-third of shoppers say they want to



see post-Christmas discounts of about 70 to 80 percent.

## THE MIDNIGHT BUYER

Bargain shoppers used to wake up at the crack of dawn to take advantage of big discounts on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. This year, some shoppers instead stayed up late on Thanksgiving night.

This shift in behavior was in large part due to retailers' efforts to outdo each other during the traditional start to the holiday shopping season. Stores like Macy's, Best Buy and Target for the first time opened at midnight

on Thanksgiving night, offering deals that once were reserved for the next day.

Twenty-four percent of Black Friday shoppers were at stores at midnight, according to a poll by the National Retail Federation, the industry's biggest trade group. That's up from 9.5 percent the year before when only a few stores were open during that time.

But those hours mostly appealed to the younger set. Of those shopping at midnight on Black Friday, 37 percent were ages 18 to 34. Older shoppers weren't as quick to run to the

malls. Only 23.5 percent of 35- to 54-year-olds were in stores by midnight.

Macy's, for one, drew 10,000 people to its midnight opening. Terry Lundgren, Macy's CEO, says many of them were young people who turned out for the Justin Bieber \$65 gift sets and discounted fashions.

Anika Ruud, 15, of Boca Raton, Fla., went out with her four cousins to Macy's at midnight and then shopped at Target until 2:30 a.m. She picked up two bras at Macy's for \$10. Then, she and her cousins went home to bed.

"It's always been inconvenient," Ruud says of the traditional 4 a.m. Black Friday openings of years past. "No one likes to wake up early."

## THE RETURNER

Shoppers who were lured into stores by bargains gleefully loaded up on everything from discounted tablet computers to clothing early in the holiday season. But soon after, many suffered a case of buyer's remorse and rushed back to return some of the items that they bought.

For instance, Elizabeth

Yamada, 55, of Fort Lee, N.J., says she got caught up in the shopping frenzy over the Thanksgiving weekend and purchased a \$350 coat that was marked down more than 50 percent at Macy's. She returned it a week later.

"It was nice, but I didn't need it," says Yamada, who works part-time as a waitress and a hospital aide. "It was impulsive shopping. But I am doing more reflecting."

For every dollar stores take in this holiday season, it's expected they will have to give back 9.9 cents in returns, up from 9.8 last year, according to the a survey of 110 retailers the NRF. It would be the highest return rate since the recession. In better economic times, it's about 7 cents.

Stores have themselves to blame for the higher returns. They lured shoppers in with deals of up to 60 percent off as early as October. Because of the deals, shoppers spent more than they normally would—and then many felt bad about it. Retailers' policies have been more lax since 2008, with some making it even easier to return purchases this year, so a lot of items that were purchased early in the season went back.

## THE "ME" SHOPPER

One for you; one for me.

After scrimping on themselves during the recession, Americans turned more self-indulgent. It's a trend that started last year, but became more prevalent this season.

According to the NRF, spending for non-gift items will increase by 16 percent this holiday season to \$130.43 per person. That's the highest number recorded since it started tracking it in 2004.

"This season, the consumer put herself ahead of the giving," says Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst with market research firm The NPD Group.

Betty Thomas, a health care coordinator at a hospital in Raleigh, N.C., says she spent \$1,700 on a ring and bracelet for herself and a rug for her home during the holiday season. That's up dramatically from the \$200 she spent last year.

"I have been putting other people first," Thomas says. "I definitely felt I earned it."

Stores have been encouraging such self-gifting.

AnnTaylor's "Perfect Presents: One for you. One for her" campaign highlighted merchandise like brightly colored sweaters. Brookstone's print ads urged shoppers to get accessories for their iPads and other electronics with the words: "gifts for your gadgets." And Shopittome.com, an online site that alerts consumers to clothing sales they're interested in, launched "Treat Yourself Tuesday" after Thanksgiving weekend.

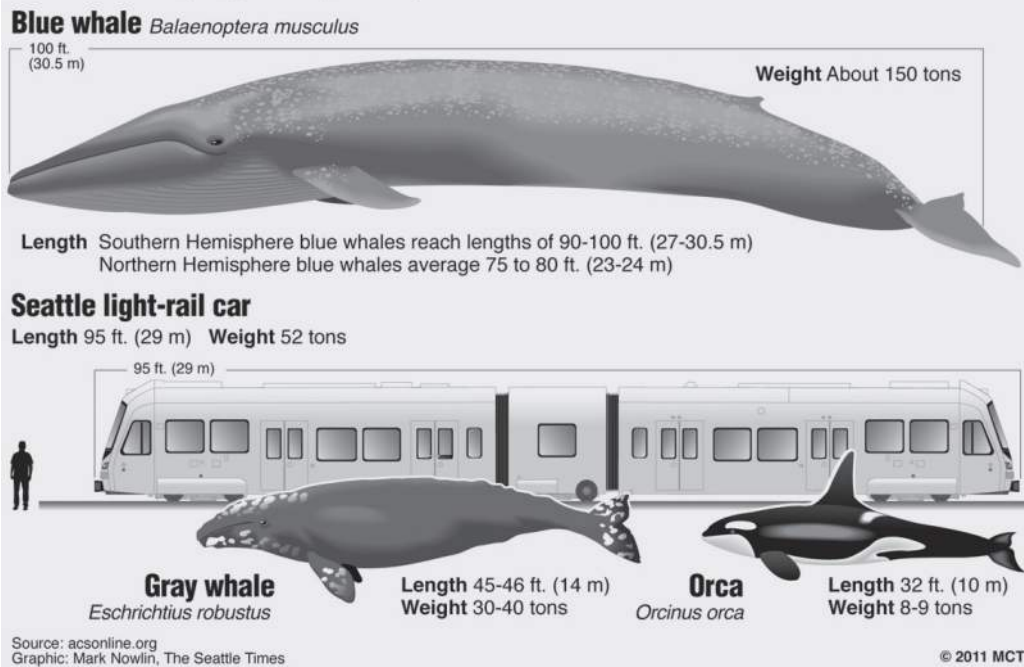


# Environment

## Rare blue whale sightings off coast of Washington

### The largest animal on Earth

Marine-mammal researchers photographed several blue whales off Washington state — only the third documented sighting in our region in 50 years.



By CRAIG WELCH  
THE SEATTLE TIMES

**SEATTLE**—He spotted the geyserlike spray from its blow-hole first.

Biologist John Calambokidis was tracking humpback whales about 25 miles off Westport late last week when he saw what he presumed was an exhalation from a much bigger species, a fin whale.

But the creature that surfaced 100 yards away was even bigger than that.

“I was like, ‘Whoa, that’s no fin whale!’ ” Calambokidis said.

Instead, far out to sea in a tiny 20-foot research boat, Calambokidis and a colleague were seeing something so extraordinary it had been documented off Washington’s coast

only twice before in the past 50 years—a blue whale, the largest animal on Earth.

Over the course of the afternoon last Thursday, he would snap 100 photographs and watch as six of the glistening light-blue cetaceans glided beneath the surface in pairs and dived repeatedly above a deep underwater feature known as Guide Canyon.

Calambokidis, one of the world’s foremost experts on the blue whale, has seen these massive marine mammals in California and South America so often that his organization, Cascadia Research, can actually identify individual animals by their markings. And yet spying so many of them up close in a place so unexpected was, for him, a spectacular experience. “It’s still an incredible thrill,”

Calambokidis said. “Here’s the biggest animal that ever lived, and it’s this beautiful, shimmering color. I get excited every time I see one.”

The moment reminded him of a quote from Seattle whale biologist Dale Rice, who once wrote, “There is no whaler and no whale biologist, no matter how experienced, who is so jaded that his heart does not race at the sight of a blue whale.”

At 150 tons, an adult blue whale is heavier than the biggest dinosaurs were, and can reach a length of 100 feet. Its 2-ton heart can weigh as much as a great white shark, with valves large enough for a child to crawl through. They burn 3 million calories a day.

“The thing that’s the most awesome about blue whales is that when you see one blow

at the surface it goes 30 feet in the air and just hangs there in this column of mist,” said Steve Jeffries, a marine-mammal biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. “With gray whales and humpbacks it’s over in two or three seconds. With blue whales it seems to hang in the air forever.”

With perhaps 10,000 left on Earth and maybe 2,000 found in the eastern North Pacific, blue-whale numbers are 10 percent of what they likely were in the 1800s, before decades of worldwide whaling. It’s difficult to know whether sightings off the Northwest coast are rare because their presence here is unusual, or because the endangered whales visit in winter when the weather and water are so rough no one is out there to see them.

But Jeffries and Calambokidis both said that the sighting helps confirm something whale researchers across the globe are only just beginning to understand: Blue whales, unlike other krill-eating baleen whales such as grays and humpbacks, don’t fast in winter and head to warmer breeding grounds. They keep eating and are probably dispersed. The creatures were there because the steep canyon creates upwelling that brings krill and phytoplankton up from the deep.

“What it reveals, I think, is that there isn’t any one single calving or breeding ground that they all go to,” Calambokidis said. “They’re extremely mobile and shift their feeding from location to location.”

Last week’s sighting was part of a joint three-year research project between Washington, Oregon and Cascadia

Research. During a rare seven-day clear spell, the state biologists in a 56-foot research boat surveyed for whales far off the coast from Neah Bay to Newport, Ore. When they spied a large contingent, they’d contact Calambokidis, who would rush out to the area to take a more detailed look.

Last Thursday, Calambokidis, who had an official research permit, headed out with a colleague to photograph and attach satellite-tracking devices on humpbacks seen earlier by

the state boat. Not long after, they spied the massive release from a whale’s blow hole off in the distance.

Calambokidis brought his boat to within 50 feet of the blue whales, while biologist Greg Schorr attempted to attach a tracking device, but the water proved too rough. But the researchers have high hopes for next year—even Jeffries, who wasn’t with Calambokidis that day.

“Now I know I may get to see them (here) eventually,” Jeffries said.

### DO YOUR PART

#### Support local spirits this season



By choosing a local or organic variety of beer or wine, you are helping the economy, protecting the planet and you just might find a new tasty favorite.

By TERRI BENNETT  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The holiday season means celebrating with family, friends, co-workers, and more. If you’re making the decision for which types of adult beverages to serve at the next gathering or just looking to treat yourself, Do Your Part by seeking out some local varieties of beers and wines. It’s an easy way to support your local economy; it’s a wonderful gift to the planet and it’s now easier than ever to find one.

There are more than 500 microbreweries in the U.S. and wine is produced in each one of the 50 states. Finding local spirits is easier than ever and there are so many benefits. When you support local producers of beers and wines, you inject money into the local and regional economies and help provide needed jobs across America. Buying local also reduces the miles traveled to deliver the product to your door. This means that your new favorite brew or glass of wine will also have a much smaller impact on the planet. Get help finding the local varieties near you by visiting [DoYourPart.com/Columns](http://DoYourPart.com/Columns).

You can also Do Your Part by selecting organic beers and wines. Organic varieties are a big benefit to the environment because they are produced without using toxic insecticides and herbicides or synthetic fer-

tilizers that pollute our air, land and water. These same chemicals can also be harmful to those living near the farm or vineyard. And like local options, the choices for organic varieties of beer and wine seem to grow by the day and are available on many store shelves. You can also find a growing number of organic choices on liquor store shelves.

Of course the greenest choice would be to make your own. I remember my parents making wine, in balloon-capped bottles, while growing up on a farm in Kentucky. Today, I know a number of passionate “basement brew masters”. I rarely encounter anyone making great wine in their bathtub nowadays but I have tasted some great home brews. If you’d like to learn more about making your own beer, [HomeBrewersAssociation.org](http://HomeBrewersAssociation.org) is a good place to start.

It’s easy to Do Your Part—even while you are enjoying that next beer or glass of wine. By choosing a local or organic variety, you are helping the economy, protecting the planet and you just might find a new tasty favorite.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, author, and founder of *DoYourPart*, everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to [terri@doyourpart.com](mailto:terri@doyourpart.com) and follow *DoYourPart* on Facebook and Twitter.

### FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

## Film explores economics of localization

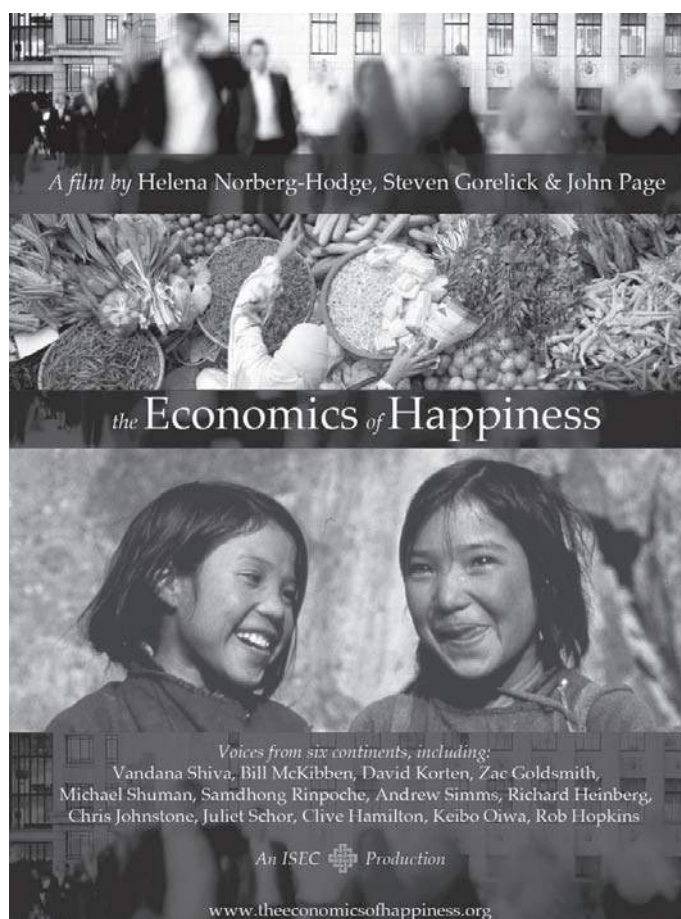
First Friday Films will be featuring its first film of the year and you don’t want to miss it. *The Economics of Happiness*, a film by Helena Norberg-Hodge, Steven Gorelick, and John Page, will be shown on Jan. 6, 2012, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park’s Visitors Center.

Economic globalization has led to a massive expansion in the scale and power of business and banking. *The Economics of Happiness* describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions. On one hand, the alliance between governments and big business continues to promote globalization and consolidation of corporate power. On the other, people all over the world are resisting those policies. Communities are coming together to rebuild more human-scale, ecological economies based on a new paradigm—the economics of localization.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups and organizations

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 65 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at [www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com). Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (DEQ)





# Life & Style

## A Winter Wonderland wedding for Raymond and Juliana

Newlyweds Raymond Palo Mendoza and Juliana Dela Rosa Mendoza tied the knot in a very special ceremony on Dec. 17, 2011, at the San Antonio Church officiated by Fr. Ike Ayuyu. The reception immediately followed at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

What made the occasion even more memorable was the personal touch of the bride, who designed the Winter Wonderland-themed wedding all by herself. As Juliana describes it:

"My 'do it yourself' wedding projects consisted of doing everything handmade and planning my very own wedding without a wedding planner. Because winter in the mainland consists of dried twigs and branches with no flowers, I had an idea to bring winter into my own wedding. I went out and picked dried twigs and branches off the side of the roads around Saipan and spray painted them white. This was cheap and did not cost me anything for the branches/twigs other than the paint.

"My wedding bouquet was not a traditional or typical flower bouquet; instead, I collected brooches, pins, rings, earrings, clips, etc. and made my very own brooch bouquet. The bridesmaids' bouquets were made from pearls. Both brooch and pearl bouquets were strung with wires and gathered together to make a bouquet.

"All my wedding decors were bought on sale. All twig and branch centerpieces or decorations, giveaways, the cake topper 'M' monogram and the cupcake stands were handmade by me. My overall expenditures for my wedding was only \$7,000.

"By the way, I sang *Hawaiian Wedding Song* by Elvis Presley as I walked down the aisle with my parents. It was a surprise and it shocked everyone in the ceremony!"



Juliana Dela Rosa Mendoza sings *Hawaiian Wedding Song* as she walks down the aisle with her parents.



Newlyweds Raymond Palo Mendoza and Juliana Dela Rosa Mendoza.



The wedding entourage of newlyweds Raymond Palo Mendoza and Juliana Dela Rosa Mendoza.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Winter Wonderland theme is carried over to the table of the newlyweds.



The bride's brooch bouquet that she made using brooches, pins, rings, earrings, clips, etc.



The bridesmaids' bouquets are made from pearls, strung with wires and gathered together to make a bouquet.





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Tuesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
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### ★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



#### We Bought A Zoo

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10

Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson  
Comedy drama • Rated PG

#### Synopsis

A widower (Matt Damon) purchases a zoo in order to bring his family back together in this Twentieth Century Fox adaptation of Benjamin Mee's autobiographical memoir. Cameron Crowe (Almost Famous) writes and directs based on a script by Aline Brosh McKenna.



#### The Darkest Hour

Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Monday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby  
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

#### Synopsis

Director Chris Gorak (Right at Your Door) teams with producer Timur Bekmambetov for this tense apocalyptic thriller centering on the fight for survival waged by five youths who find themselves stranded in Moscow during an alien invasion. As the invisible extraterrestrials absorb all of Earth's energy and life forms, finding a means of escaping the unstoppable attackers becomes a seemingly impossible task. Emile Hirsch, Olivia Thirlby, and Max Minghella star.



#### The Adventure of Tintin

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30

Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis  
Adventure • Rated PG



#### Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner  
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13



#### The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00

Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara  
Thriller • Rated R



#### Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20

Jason Lee  
Children's/family • Rated G



#### Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law  
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

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## MINISTRY OF GOSSIP

### Sinead O'Connor ends her marriage after 16 days

Sinead O'Connor is showing Kim Kardashian a thing or two when it comes to whirlwind marriages. The Irish singer tied the knot with her short-time boyfriend, Barry Herridge, on her 45th birthday earlier this month in Las Vegas—and 16 days later, she and Herridge were calling it quits.

In a blog post on her official site, O'Connor announced the split ahead of an impending media leak of the info. "From the moment myself and my husband got together not long ago, there was intense pressure placed upon him by certain people in his life, not to be involved with me," she wrote Monday, 18 days after her Dec. 8 wedding.

"Within 3 hours of the ceremony being over the marriage was kyboshed by the behaviour of certain people in my husband's life," she continued.

But then O'Connor let slip some info more fascinating than anything else in the post: "And also by a bit of a wild ride I took us on looking for a bit of a smoke of weed for me wedding night as I don't drink. My husband was enormously wounded and very badly effected by that experience and also by the attitude of those close to him toward our marriage."

So Mr. Herridge, a youth substance-abuse counselor in Dublin, had friends and/or family who didn't approve of the woman he married. Fair enough; it happens. The only question is, what exactly happened during O'Connor's wild Vegas hunt for weed? How insane was it, and how could it possibly be enough to end a marriage?

Does this sound to anyone else like the setup for "The Hangover Part III"?

"He is a wonderful man," O'Connor continued. "I love him very much. I'm sorry I'm not a more regular woman. I truly believe though it is painful to admit, we made a mistake rushing into getting married, for altruistic reasons, and weren't aware or prepared for the consequences on my husband's life and the lives of those close to him. He has been terribly unhappy and I have therefore ended the marriage. I think he is too nice to do so. And too nice to trap."

O'Connor wrote that the marriage lasted 16 days, ending on Christmas Eve. She and Herridge lived together for only seven days, she said.

She warns the media and her fans away from her former spouse and his family and begs that all scrutiny be reserved for her, since she's a public figure. "I'm fair game. He or his family are not."

This is a sad end to O'Connor's much-publicized search for love, which began in August with a blog post plead-



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

The Twilight Saga stars Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner, left to right, pose for the cameras during the handprint and footprint ceremony honoring them in the forecourt of Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011.

ing for a man.

For her part, O'Connor is well aware of how this turn of events will be played in the media. She concluded, "so now u can all go ahead and have a great laugh, media wise, and be horrid if u desire to. But that's my record set straight."

Herridge was O'Connor's fourth husband. (*Patrick Kevin Day*)

### Taylor Lautner 'Out & Proud' gay People cover is a fake

Taylor Lautner has not come out as a gay man, despite an "out & proud" magazine cover making the post-Christmas rounds. Um, not that there's anything wrong with that.

The "exclusive" People cover is a fake, a People rep confirmed to rumor-debunking celeb website Gossip Cop on Monday. Exclusively.

The clues are pretty obvious, even if you're not an expert at spotting Photoshop work. People publishes on Mondays; Jan. 7, the date on the alleged cover, is a Saturday. Also, People's special double issues happen

twice a year, once in summer and once at year's end.

One high-profile person who fell for the alleged cover? Russell Simmons, who tweeted "Proud of Taylor Lautner for his bravery and his courage" before nuking that message and replacing it with "Disappointed that people would joke about someone coming out about their sexuality. Let Taylor Lautner be whoever he wants to be."

One story about Lautner that is true? His wax figure is expected to join Robert Pattinson's at Madame Tussauds in London this January, the museum announced earlier this month. And though it won't be an exclusive photo opportunity, we can't wait to see the pics. (*Christie D'Zurilla*)

### Prince Philip leaves the hospital, heads back to Sandringham

Prince Philip is on the mend and apparently in good spirits in photos that show the husband of Queen Elizabeth II after being discharged from a Cambridge hospital Tuesday.

Smiling and waving from

the front seat of a Range Rover, Philip left Papworth Hospital, located about an hour outside of the royal family's luxurious Sandringham estate—where the entire titled clan celebrates the Christmas holiday annually.

After complaining of chest pains on Christmas Eve, Philip was transported for a "minimally invasive" procedure to unblock a coronary artery. The prince (aka Duke of Edinburgh) was visited by family members including Charles, Prince of Wales, and his grandsons William and Harry, among others.

Philip "thanked the staff at Papworth for the excellent care he has received during his stay," according to a statement from Buckingham Palace, which added that he was "very much looking forward to rejoining his family."

The Prince will certainly need his rest, as 2012 is jam-packed with appearances and events in celebration of the Queen's diamond jubilee, which marks 60 years of her reign. (Matt Donnelly)

Ministry of Gossip: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/gossip/>

## Carol Channing's husband, Harry Kullijian, dies

**RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif.** (AP)—Harry Kullijian, a former Northern California city councilman who married Broadway star Carol Channing some 70 years after the childhood sweethearts lost contact, has died on the eve of his 92nd birthday.

Kullijian collapsed at the couple's Rancho Mirage home after suffering an aneurysm, according to family spokesman Harlan Boll. He died Monday at a nearby hospital, Boll said.

Kullijian met Channing while attending middle school in San Francisco, where they dated for a few years before going off to college. The pair lost touch for decades—as Channing became a musical theater hit with her Tony-winning role in "Hello, Dolly," while Kullijian went to war and then local politics. But they never forgot about each other.

In her 2000 memoir, "Just Lucky, I Guess," Channing re-

flected on her first love, saying the years spent with him were the happiest of her life.

"The leader of the school band was Harry Kullijian. I was so in love with Harry I couldn't stop hugging him," she wrote.

A mutual friend who read the book urged the recently-widowed Kullijian to call Channing. They got engaged two weeks after their reunion and married three months later, when Channing was 82 and Kullijian 83.

"We went on talking from the last conversation when we were 15 years old," Channing said of their first meeting in seven decades, in a 2003 interview on CNN's "Larry King Live." "We just picked up from that. The years between disappeared, just disappeared."

Born in Turlock, Kullijian settled in nearby Modesto after fighting in World War II and the Korean War and went into walnut farming and real estate.

He served two terms on the Modesto City Council, and then spearheaded a local campaign against pornography.

After he married Channing, the couple formed the Channing-Kullijian Foundation to support arts education in schools, and he took over as her manager. The couple split their time between homes in Modesto and Rancho Mirage.

"We go to these celebrity events and, of course, everyone knows and loves Carol and wants to talk to her," Kullijian told The Modesto Bee in October. "Then they point to me and ask, 'Who's he?' So I've adopted a new name: Who's he? It doesn't matter who I am; it only matters that I'm helping someone else."

Kullijian is survived by Channing; his two children with late wife Gerry Amos, John and Leslee; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



# Facebook unwelcome in Vietnam, but Zuckerberg OK

**HANOI, Vietnam (AP)**—Vietnam may block its citizens from using Facebook, but that didn't stop website founder Mark Zuckerberg from vacationing in the communist country.

Zuckerberg spent Christmas Eve in the popular tourist destination Ha Long Bay, local official Trinh Dang Thanh says.

State-run media say Zuckerberg arrived in Vietnam on Dec. 22.

Zuckerberg spent Christmas Day at an ecolodge in the northern mountain town of Sapa and rode a buffalo, said Le Phuc Thien, deputy manager at Topas Ecolodge.

Zuckerberg, Facebook's 27-year-old CEO, founded the

social networking site in 2004.

Vietnam's aggressive Internet censors block access to Facebook and other websites, but young Vietnamese easily bypass the restrictions.

## Matthew McConaughey is engaged to longtime girlfriend

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Matthew McConaughey is engaged to marry his longtime girlfriend, Camila Alves.

The 42-year-old actor proposed to the Brazilian model on Christmas Day. He announced the move in a tweet that included a photo of the couple kissing and read, "just asked camila to marry me,

merry Christmas."

McConaughey's publicist confirmed the engagement Tuesday.

McConaughey and Alves have two children together, son Levi and daughter Vida.

His film credits include "We Are Marshall," "Tropic Thunder" and "The Lincoln Lawyer."



In this Thursday, June 9, 2011 file photo, actor Matthew McConaughey, right, and Camilla Alves arrive at the taping of "TV Land Presents: AFI Life Achievement Award Honoring Morgan Freeman" in Culver City, Calif.

## Son of O.J. Simpson former relative arrested

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)**—The 25-year-old son of Denise Brown has been arrested with his girlfriend on domestic violence charges.

Brown became an advocate against domestic violence after her sister, Nicole Brown Simpson, was slain in 1994.

Sean Brown and his girlfriend, 22-year-old Amy Johnson, were arrested after police answered a pre-dawn report of a domestic violence incident. Police say both had superficial

wounds which did not require hospitalization.

The couple were held for investigation of inflicting corporal injury to a spouse or cohabitant. Bail is set at \$50,000 while the district attorney's office decides whether to file charges.

O.J. Simpson was acquitted of murder in a high-profile trial at which Denise Brown testified that he had physically abused his ex-wife. She founded the Nicole Brown Simpson Foundation to fight domestic violence.

## Ex-'Saturday Night Live' writer Joe Bodolai dies

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Former "Saturday Night Live" writer Joseph Bodolai has committed suicide in a Hollywood hotel room, the Los Angeles coroner's office said Tuesday.

Coroner's office spokesman Craig Harvey said room service staff found the body of the 63-year-old Bodolai at 1:30 p.m. Monday in a room at Hollywood's Re-Tan Hotel. He checked into the hotel Dec. 19.

Harvey said Bodolai drank a mixture of Gatorade and antifreeze. The death, first reported by celebrity website TMZ, has been ruled a suicide.

Besides writing on 20 episodes of "Saturday Night Live" in 1981 and 1982, Bodolai was

the TV producer for 20 episodes of "The Kids in the Hall" Canadian sketch comedy troupe.

Police Cmdr. Andrew Smith said there was no suicide note, however Bodolai apparently foreshadowed his suicide online.

The Los Angeles Times cited a lengthy post published Friday on a WordPress blog that appears to be registered to Bodolai. It was titled "If This Were Your Last Day Alive, What Would You Do?" and included Bodolai's accomplishments and regrets.

A message on the Twitter account (at)joebodolai said "Good-bye" and had a link to the blog.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the authenticity of the online posts.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Oscar voters: Your ballots are in the mail

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Academy Awards season is officially on. Nominations ballots for the 84th Oscar show have just gone in the mail. Oscar organizers mailed ballots Tuesday to 5,783 voting members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Ballots are due back Jan. 13, and Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 24. The Oscar ceremony is set for Feb. 26, with Billy Crystal returning as host for the first time in eight years. Among this season's best-picture prospects are the black-and-white silent film "The Artist," the Deep South drama "The Help," George Clooney's family tale "The Descendants" and Steven Spielberg's World War I epic "War Horse."

### John Legend engaged to model Chrissy Teigen

**NEW YORK (AP)**—John Legend will no longer be a bachelor: He's engaged. The singer's publicist said Tuesday that Legend proposed to his girlfriend, model Chrissy Teigen, recently in the Maldives. No more details are being provided. Legend has won nine Grammys and released four albums. Teigen was named "rookie of the year" in the Sports Illustrated's annual swimsuit issue last year. She also has a food blog. Legend turns 33 Wednesday.

### Van Halen announces 2012 tour on website

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Van Halen will tour in 2012. The rock band has posted a video on its website announcing that the first tickets

will go on sale Jan. 10. The black-and-white video shows guitarist Eddie Van Halen and drummer Alex Van Halen, along with original lead singer David Lee Roth and Eddie's son, Wolfgang, on bass. The ticker at the bottom of the video reads: "Van Halen on Tour 2012. First tickets on sale January 10." No other information is posted on the website. Van Halen, with its flamboyant frontman "Diamond Dave," was one of the most popular rock bands of the 1980s, but Roth left the band in 1985. Van Halen toured with him in 2007-2008.



In this Oct. 19, 1982 file photo, lead singer David Lee Roth, left, and lead guitarist Eddie Van Halen of Van Halen perform during a concert at The Spectrum in Philadelphia. Van Halen will tour in 2012.

Tuesday that weight and a transcontinental jet flight were contributing factors. The cause of death was pulmonary embolism and deep leg vein thrombosis. He also had arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease. Heavy D became one of the genre's most integral stars in the late 1980s and early 1990s. His hit "The Overweight Lover's in the House" played up his hefty frame.

### LA coroner says Heavy D died of natural causes

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—The Los Angeles coroner's office says Jamaican-born rapper Heavy D died of natural causes. The self-proclaimed "overweight lover" of hip hop, who became one of rap's top hit makers with a combination of humor and positivity, collapsed outside his Beverly Hills home on Nov. 8. The 44-year-old rapper, whose real name was Dwight Errington, died later at a hospital. Coroner's office spokesman Craig Harvey said

## Serial job-changer has no business in the military

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 19-year-old woman, hardworking and married to my best friend. Life is amazing!

So what's my problem? I burn out of jobs quickly. I'll start a job and absolutely love it, but within six months the things that I once loved about the job start to drive me crazy. Within a year, I hate my job and put in my two-week notice. It's not that I have problems finding jobs—I'm well-groomed, speak well and I'm enthusiastic.

I have recently considered enlisting in the Air Force. (My husband is on active duty.) I am absolutely thrilled about it, but I'm afraid I'll eventually start hating my job and it's something I'll be stuck with. How do I overcome this?

WANTS TO ENLIST

**DEAR WANTS TO ENLIST:** Please stop and re-read your letter. Are you aware that you're talking about work the way a schoolgirl talks about romance—blind, grand passion until reality sets in, then on to the next one?

A job isn't like that. While it can be rewarding on many levels, when the novelty fades it is still WORK. There are good days and ones that are less so, co-workers who are a pleasure and some who are a challenge. Sometimes it's stimulating and sometimes it's an effort.

Years ago there was a letter in this column that read: "Dear Abby: I joined the Navy to see the world. I've seen it. Now how do I get OUT?" I don't want a letter like that from you.

Military life is rewarding, but it can also be demanding, frustrating and dangerous. It requires making a commitment and sticking with it even after the going gets tough. With your short attention span and low tolerance for frustration, I don't recommend you take ANY job that requires a signed contract guaranteeing you won't leave.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My friend and I have a massage therapist, "Shelby," whom we hire on a regular basis because she does an excellent job. However, it's hard to get a completely relaxing massage because she likes to talk the whole time.

What's the nicest and most polite way to inform Shelby that we prefer peace and quiet so we can enjoy the massage?

RUBBED THE WRONG WAY IN COLORADO

**DEAR RUBBED THE WRONG WAY:** Shelby is not your buddy; she's a professional who has been hired to perform a service. When you make your next appointment and she starts talking, say, "Shelby, when you talk during the massage, it makes it difficult for me to relax. Right now, I need to completely relax, and conversation is distracting." If that doesn't clearly—and politely—convey your message, then you need to find a massage therapist who is less verbal.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I hired a pet sitter to stay in my home for two days to care for my dog. (I have used him in the past.) After 24 hours of no response to my texts or phone calls, I asked a neighbor to check on my dog. The sitter never showed up. My dog had been left alone with no food or walks.

Should I alert his other clients about what happened? I have this person's client email list. It's possible that other pets were also neglected.

ANGRY PET OWNER IN HOUSTON

**DEAR ANGRY:** Pet sitting is a sacred obligation, and if the sitter is for some reason unable to fulfill that responsibility, there should be a backup plan in place in case of emergency. Unless your sitter had a life-threatening emergency, by all means warn the other clients.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.







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**FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL**

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## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	<b>\$15</b>	<b>\$27</b>
• 5-Liner	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Hubion Corporation**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use permit. The Hubion Corporation is proposing to operate institutional dwelling units and offices on lots 025 D 06/ 07/08 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

**Date: January 5, 2012**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, January 4, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Mission Connection Ministry**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use permit. The Mission Connection Ministry is proposing to operate a Church on lots 003 H 23 and 003 H 28 in Susupe. This area is located behind Music And store on Beach Road and is zoned as Village Residential.

**Date: January 11, 2012**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, January 10, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

**Notice of Zoning Board Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 05, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of December 1, 2011 minutes
5. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)

**B. Public Hearings**

1. Conditional Use Application #2011-2548: Marianas Business Plaza is requesting to install solar panels on the west parking areas, driveways, and walkways fronting its building, located on lots 384-5 and 384-8 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
2. Conditional Use Application #2011-2605: Hubion Corporation is proposing to operate institutional dwelling units and offices on lots 025 D 06/ 07/08 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

**C. Communications/ Reports**

**D. Old Business.**

1. None

**E. New Business.**

1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2011
2. Office operations report

**F. Executive (Closed) Session.**

**G. Miscellaneous:** Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**  
for  
**Marianas Business Plaza**

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use permit. The Marianas Business Plaza is requesting to install solar panels on the west parking areas, driveways, and walkways fronting its building, located on lots 384-5 and 384-8 in Susupe. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

**Date: January 5, 2012**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, January 4, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to [therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

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# Heat staggers home against Celtics



MIAMI—Norris Cole stepped to the foul line with 9.3 seconds left, set to clinch the game as cries of “M-V-P” rained down upon him from the sold-out stands.

No, this wasn’t a scene from his days at Cleveland State.

Taking over in just his second NBA game—and with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh all on the floor, no less—Cole scored 14 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, including three huge jumpers down the stretch to save the Heat in a 115-107 win over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

“You grow up and live for moments like that,” Cole said.

James scored 26 points, Wade had 24 points, eight assists and four blocks, and Bosh scored 18 for the Heat, which led by 20 points midway through the third quarter before having its lead twice sliced to three points in the final minutes. And both times, Cole took passes from James and knocked down jumpers, keeping short-handed Boston at bay.

“He’s got savvy,” Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. “Great pickup.”

Ray Allen scored 28 points on 8 for 12 shooting for the Celtics, while Rajon Rondo finished with 22 points and 12 assists and Keyon Dooling scored 18 off the Boston bench.

Through two games, Miami (2-0) has trailed only once—by two points, for all of 14 seconds. Boston turned the ball over 24 times, and Miami turned those into 33 points.

“Any team you turn the ball over that much they’re going to score on you,” Allen said. “We just have to settle in on both ends of the floor. Whether you score or not, they’re going to run down your throats.”

Cole’s jumper with 3:01 left gave Miami a 108-98 lead, most of which disappeared in the next 59 seconds, thanks to Dooling—a former Heat guard. He scored seven straight points, including a 3-pointer with 2:02 remaining, cutting the Heat’s lead to three. And when Boston got a stop on the next Miami trip, the Celtics looked for Dooling again.

But Wade stepped in front of a pass intended for Dooling, starting a play where James found Cole for another jumper, and Miami’s cushion was back to 110-105 with 1:31 to play. A half-minute later, Cole struck again to restore the five-point edge, and Miami had the win.

“He’s earned their respect,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “Even though it’s been a short period of time, about three weeks, because he’s pure, he’s all about the team. He’s mature



AP  
Miami Heat guards Dwyane Wade, left, and Norris Cole celebrate after the Heat defeated the Boston Celtics 115-107 during an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011, in Miami.

... and he gets them the ball. You’re always a popular guy when you find people when they’re open.”

Boston was again without forward Paul Pierce (bruised right heel), who worked out both Monday and Tuesday and is getting closer to a return. It won’t come on Wednesday, however—the Celtics have already ruled him out of that game in New Orleans, but there is some hope of Pierce being in the lineup when Boston makes its home debut against Detroit on Friday.

Maybe spurred by the new Eastern Conference championship banner hanging from the rafters, Miami came out flying.

A short bank shot by Wade made it 26-15 at barely the midpoint of the first quarter, setting the tone for an offensive bonanza the likes of which Boston typically doesn’t allow. After a late flurry—James setting up Wade for a lob, Wade missing at the rim but James trailing for a tip-in being per-

haps the most impressive of Miami’s highlight reel to close the second quarter—the Heat took a 69-54 lead into the locker room.

That represented the most first-half points allowed by the Celtics since Feb. 8, 2005, according to STATS LLC.

Six straight points by James made it 85-65 midway through the third, and Miami was well on its way to a blow-out. But then everything changed—Boston went to a zone, and Miami’s offense stopped in its tracks.

Feasting on Miami’s second unit, with James being the only starter on the floor, the Celtics closed the third on an 18-6 run to make it 91-83 entering the fourth. The Heat missed their last eight shots of the quarter—after having missed 14, total, in the first 32 minutes of the game.

Boston never got the lead down the stretch, though, thanks to Cole.

“We have confidence in whoever’s on the floor at that time,” James said.

“For him to make those shots and come up big in a game like that, give credit to him.”

## Hawks 106, Nets 70

In Newark, New Jersey, Atlanta opened a double-digit lead early and cruised to a victory over sluggish New Jersey, which was playing its last home opener in the state.

Marvin Williams had 14 points and nine rebounds while Jeff Teague added 13 points for the Hawks, who embarrassed the Nets in a game in which the crowd was booing the Brooklyn-bound team by halftime.

Rookie MarShon Brooks had 17 points to lead the cold-shooting Nets, who looked tired coming off a season-opening comeback win in Washington on Monday.

## Bucks 98, Timberwolves 95

In Milwaukee, rookie Jon Leuer converted a three-point play with 1:17 left, helping Milwaukee hold off Minnesota in its home opener.

Brandon Jennings scored 24 points for the Bucks, who were playing without forward Drew Gooden because of a suspension and several other key players because of injuries.

Kevin Love had 31 points and 20 rebounds for the Timberwolves, whose late rally came up just short.

Minnesota was without coach Rick Adelman, who was attending a funeral. Assistant Terry Porter, who used to coach the Bucks, filled in.

## Lakers 96, Jazz 71

In Los Angeles, the hosts avoided just the fourth 0-3 start in franchise history by easily beating Utah.

Kobe Bryant scored 26 points and Pau Gasol added 22 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers, who had much more life than the Jazz despite playing their third game in three nights to open the season.

Los Angeles ran away with a dominant third quarter, making a 27-8 surge to set up the first win for new coach Mike Brown.

Paul Millsap had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Utah, the last NBA team to open its season.

## Blazers 101, Kings 79

In Portland, Gerald Wallace had 25 points, eight rebounds and five assists, leading Portland over Sacramento.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and eight rebounds for the Blazers.

DeMarcus Cousins led the way with 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Kings, who struggled with field shooting in the second half and committed 23 fouls and 20 turnovers for the game.

# Pitino: Plans to quit when contract ends in 2017



LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Rick Pitino said Tuesday that he won’t coach past the 2016-2017 season when his current contract ends at Louisville.

“When you’re 59, you’re realistic that you don’t have a whole lot of years left,” Pitino said at a news conference before the No. 4 Cardinals play Georgetown on Wednesday. “My contract’s going to run out

in 2017. I’m not coaching any more after that.”

The former Providence and Kentucky coach has guided the Cardinals to a 12-0 record so far this season.

Louisville’s Athletic Association granted Pitino, the only men’s coach to lead three different programs to the Final Four, a four-year contract extension in August. He’ll make \$3 million in base salary until the end of the 2013 season, followed by \$3.9 million a year.

Pitino didn’t use the word ‘retire,’ but has said in the past that Louisville would be his last coaching stop. He’s 253-96 in his 11th season at Louisville, which reached the Final Four in 2005.

The Cardinals will host the Hoyas in their Big East Conference opener before traveling to face rival and No. 3 Kentucky on Saturday.

Pitino said Louisville hasn’t started preparing for Kentucky.

“One thing I’ve learned to do with

my age, I really don’t look ahead,” said Pitino, who went 219-50 in eight seasons at Kentucky and won the 1996 national championship. “For years, I’ve been preaching the precious present and having to always subscribe to it.”

Senior guard Chris Smith echoed his coach.

“We haven’t talked about Kentucky one time yet, and we’re going to keep it like that until we come out with a W tomorrow,” he said.

## Blatche needs just 1 game to create Wizards drama

WASHINGTON (AP)—It took only one game for the new-look Washington Wizards to resemble their same old dysfunctional selves.

Andray Blatche took to Twitter on Tuesday to, in effect, criticize the way his criticisms were criticized following the Wizards’ season-opening loss to the New Jersey Nets.

“Every body need to shut up I didn’t call out my coach or team mates I said I had a bad game need it n the post instead of jump shots,” Blatche tweeted.

Blatche wasn’t happy after the 90-84 defeat in which the Wizards blew a 21-point lead, saying afterward he wasn’t being used to the best of his abilities. He scored 11 points on 5-for-13 shooting and was called for a technical for exchanging words with Kris Humphries.

“You can’t keep having me pick-and-pop and shooting jump shots,” he said in the locker room. “Give me the ball in the paint. That’s where I’m most effective at. I’ve been saying that since training camp: I need the ball in the paint. I don’t want to be the pick-and-pop guy that I used to be. It’s not working for me.”

Blatche has been known to be a bit of a wild card during his seven seasons in the Wizards locker room, but this outburst was exceptional because he had introduced himself as “your captain, Andray Blatche” to the crowd during a pregame speech—and because the team is only one game into the season, playing under the theme “New Traditions.” If this keeps up, the Wizards could somehow manage to make even a lockout-shortened season seem long.

“It’s disappointing,” coach Flip Saunders said Tuesday. “But, look, we were all disappointed.”

Saunders met with Blatche before practice to sort things out.

“We talked about what he said about as far as wanting to be in the post,” Saunders said. “And I told him, that’s something to my ears. I love hearing that. ... But then he also has to understand that just because you get it at 17 feet, you don’t have to shoot it either. I’m not twisting his arm to do that.”

Saunders also clarified the captaincy situation. He said he plans to rotate captains for the time being because the team had such an abbreviated training camp. Blatche and John Wall served as captains for the first game.

“It was a situation last night, he’s been here longer than anybody else,” Saunders said. “And so we’ll rotate as far as who it’s going to be.”

Before the lockout, Saunders gave Blatche a book titled “The 17 Essential Qualities Of A Team Player.” Blatche has said he read about half of it. At media day following the lockout, owner Ted Leonsis said: “I talked to Andray, and he understands that the fan base, media are all looking to take cues on can his focus and dedication match his skills.”

Blatche did not speak to reporters Tuesday, opting to exit the court through an alternate door after practice. The closest thing to a captain-like comment came from rookie Chris Singleton, who already doesn’t care for the taste of NBA losing despite having experienced it only once.

“I don’t want it to be a recurring thing,” Singleton said. “I want to change this culture, and there’s too much losing the last couple of years. Some people might just like that. I’m not used to it, and I’m not trying to get used to it.”



# 8 Patriots and 49ers lead Pro Bowl rosters



NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Brady is one of eight Patriots and Patrick Willis one of eight 49ers to make the Pro Bowl, the most on each roster.

Defending Super Bowl champion Green Bay (14-1), led by starting quarterback Aaron Rodgers, and Baltimore (11-4), led by veteran linebacker Ray Lewis, have seven apiece for the Jan. 29 game in Honolulu, the NFL announced Tuesday.

Brady is one of seven starters from New England (12-3). The others are receiver Wes Welker, tight end Rob Gronkowski, defensive tackle Vince Wilfork, defensive end Andre Carter, and guards Brian Waters and Logan Mankins all are starters for the AFC from the Patriots. Special teamer Matthew Slater is the other New England representative.

Linebacker Willis, DE Justin Smith, cornerback Carlos Rogers and tackle Joe Staley will start for the NFC from the 49ers (12-3), who had only Smith and Willis make the Pro Bowl last year.

Green Bay's Rodgers is the starting NFC quarterback, backed by record-setting Drew Brees of New Orleans (12-3).

"It does have special significance, because when I was voted in in 2009, I was the third guy and I was very thankful to be voted in, and got the opportunity to start because of some injuries and guys not going," Rodgers said. "It's great to be voted in as a starter, that means a lot to me and it's a special honor."

Four of the NFL's biggest headline makers this season did not get voted in by players, coaches and fans: Lions DT Ndamukong Suh, Steelers LB James Harrison, Panthers rookie QB Cam Newton, and Denver QB Tim Tebow.

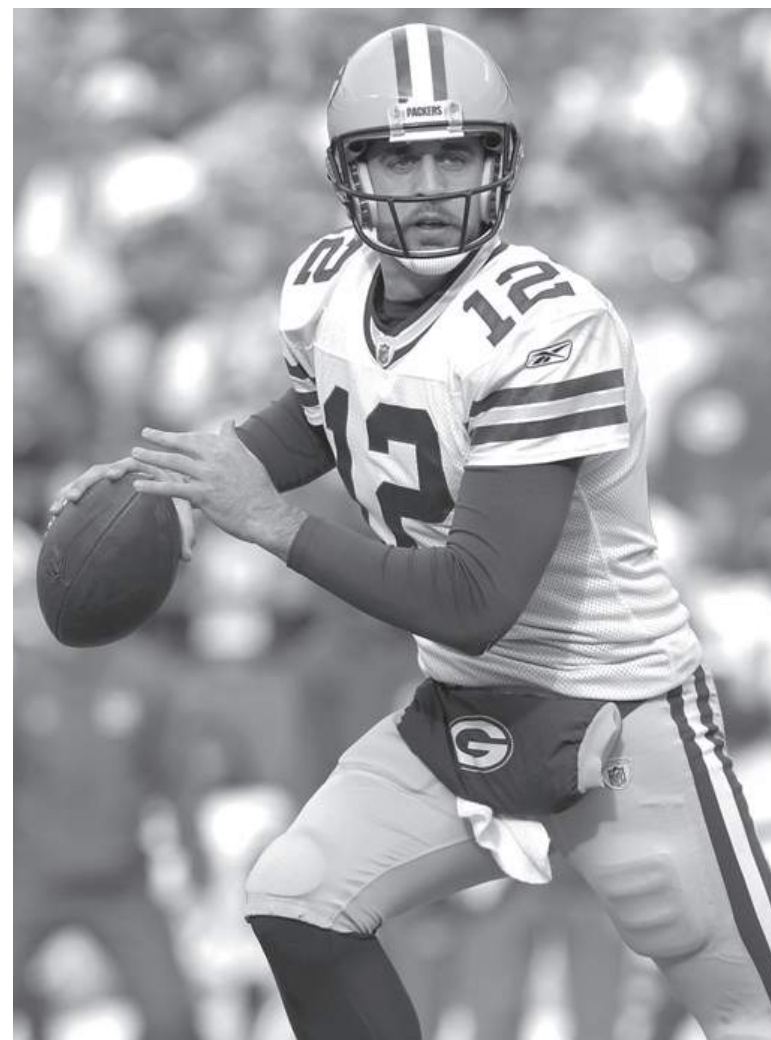
Suh might have lost support after drawing a two-game suspension for stomping an opponent, and Harrison's one-game suspension for his helmet-to-helmet hit on Browns QB Colt McCoy might have reduced his support.

Fifteen first-time Pro Bowlers made the NFC squad, including Rodgers, Staley and safety Dashon Goldson of the 49ers. Thirteen AFC players were first-time selections, including Gronkowski, Carter and Slater of New England. Carter is on injured reserve (left quadriceps) and won't play.

"If you look around the NFC, you see a ton of amazing and talented players at tight end," said the Saints' Jimmy Graham, the starter at the position and a first-time Pro Bowler. "And to be thought of in that company by my peers, the head coaches and the fans who follow the NFL is something I



In these 2011 file photos, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, left, and Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers look to pass during NFL football games.



take seriously."

Fourteen teams from each conference were represented, with St. Louis (2-13) and Washington (5-10) drawing blanks in the NFC, Buffalo (6-9) and Tennessee (8-7) shut out in the AFC.

Pittsburgh (11-4), New Orleans and Chicago (7-8) each had five representatives.

Three rookies were chosen: Denver linebacker Von Miller, Cincinnati receiver A.J. Green, and Arizona cornerback Patrick Peterson, selected as a kick return specialist. He has tied an NFL record with four punt runbacks for TDs this season.

"As I've said before, A.J. is the best first-round draft pick that I've ever been around," Bengals coach Marvin Lewis said. "He has shown the other players in this league, and the fans, that he deserved this honor. I have not seen a receiver better than he is at getting to the ball."

All the kickers are from Bay Area teams.

NFC special teamers included two 49ers: record-setting placekicker David Akers, and punter Andy Lee; Peterson; and Corey Graham of Chicago.

For the AFC, the Raiders' Sebastian Janikowski is the placekicker, Shane Lechler the punter. The kick return specialist is Pittsburgh WR Antonio Brown, and the special-teams player is Slater.

NFC starters will be Rodgers, Eagles RB LeSean McCoy, Packers FB John Kuhn, Graham, Panthers C Ryan Kalil, Saints guards Jahri Evans and Carl Nicks, Eagles tackle Jason Peters and Staley, Cardinals WR Larry Fitzgerald and Lions WR Calvin Johnson on offense.

On defense, it will be Vikings DE Jared Allen and Eagles DE Jason Babin, Cowboys DT Jay Ratliff and Smith, Packers OLB Clay Matthews

and Cowboys OLB DeMarcus Ware, ILB Willis, Packers CB Charles Woodson and Rogers, Seahawks safety Earl Thomas and Cardinals safety Adrian Wilson.

AFC starters will be Brady, Ravens RB Ray Rice and FB Vonta Leach, Gronkowski, Steelers C Maurkice Pouncey, Mankins and Waters at guard, Browns tackles Joe Thomas and Dolphins tackle Jake Long, Welker and Steelers WR Mike Wallace.

On defense, it will be Broncos DE Elvis Dumervil replacing Carter, Colts DE Dwight Freeney, Wilfork and Ravens DT Haloti Ngata, Miller and Ravens OLB Terrell Suggs, Lewis, Jets CB Darrelle Revis and Broncos CB Champ Bailey, Steelers safety Troy Polamalu and Ravens safety Ed Reed.

Players who make the Super Bowl will be replaced on the Pro Bowl rosters.



METAIRIE, La.

(AP)—A day after Sean Payton helped Drew Brees break the NFL's single-season passing record the coach wouldn't divulge whether he'd enable his star quarterback to maintain that distinction.

With 5,087 yards passing this season after Monday night's victory over Atlanta, Brees enters the final week of the season 190 yards ahead of New England's Tom Brady. Yet the Saints' regular-season finale may not matter in terms of playoff seeding, meaning the prudent choice for Payton could be to rest Brees for much of Sunday's game against Carolina.

The Patriots, by contrast, need to beat Buffalo to ensure they'll have the top seed in the AFC, and Brady has proven time and again he can put up a lot of yards in a single game. He had a season-high 517 yards against Miami in Week 1 and threw for 423 against San Diego. The last time New

## Payton not divulging plan for Brees in finale

England played Buffalo, Brady threw for 387 yards.

So it's not out of the realm of possibility that Brady could finish the season with the passing record Brees now holds, particularly if the Saints' quarterback sits out.

"I'm not really aware of the space between the two. I am probably better off not knowing," Payton said Tuesday of Brees and Brady's yardage totals.

With the playoffs close, Payton said the Saints' priority must be how to "put ourselves in the best position to play well and put ourselves in an opportunity to win a championship."

"That's not always what is popular," the coach added.

Payton pointed out that he heard criticism of his decision during the 2009 season to rest Brees and other key starters in the regular-season finale

against Carolina. The Saints lost that game, finishing a season that had started 13-0 on a three-game skid. No team had ever gone into the playoffs on a losing streak that long and won the Super Bowl, but Payton relished the chance to defy history—and did.

"It was what we needed to do as a team," Payton recalled of his 2009 decision. "You make decisions. They are not always right. You try to make them with the right things to help your team."

"Last night was one of those situations," Payton added, referring to his decision to let Brees throw late in Monday night's game. "This upcoming game will be one of those situations."

Payton has his reasons for being cautious, though. They include bad and relatively fresh memories from the 2010 regular season finale, when then-leading rusher Chris Ivory, emerg-

ing tight end Jimmy Graham and starting free safety Malcolm Jenkins all got hurt.

The worst part was that the Saints could not have gained anything in terms of seeding by winning that game because Atlanta also won that day to wrap up the NFC South Division title. The next week, the Saints were bounced from the postseason by Seattle.

"We just have to be smart," Payton said. "We are playing well, with some momentum. Each year is different. We will look at that closely."

Now that New Orleans has clinched the division, this week-end's scenario is similar to last season in that the only way the Saints can improve their seeding is with both a win over the Panthers and a San Francisco loss at St. Louis, which is 2-13. If that happened, the Saints would jump to No. 2 and get a first-

round bye and a second-round game at home. That, however, does not appear likely to odds makers, who've made the 49ers 10 1/2-point favorites.

Payton already has made one arguably unconventional move to help Brees set the record. He let his star quarterback keep throwing during the final minutes of Monday night's 45-16 victory over the Falcons to get the 30 yards he needed to surpass Dan Marino's 1984 record of 5,084 yards. The last pass was an otherwise inconsequential 9-yard touchdown to Darren Sproles.

While Payton exposed himself to criticism for running up the score, he said he was comfortable with his decision.

"You go with your gut," Payton said. "I thought it was the right decisions last night. This morning, I thought it was

clearly the right decision. I felt overwhelmingly that most people that are involved in this game, and know a little bit about this game, probably felt the same way. The great thing about our game is that you can have an opinion about it."

When Brees came off the field after eclipsing Marino's mark on his last pass of the game, he carried the ball he threw on the history-making completion to Sproles.

Brees then said he wished there was a way to share the ball with his teammates, upon whom he showered credit for helping him succeed.

"I guess we could cut it up and give it to them all," Brees said. "I guess the ball itself is not as important to me as the memory we created, because that is something that will live forever."

The record itself, however, could be gone sooner than later - unless Payton decides it's something worth fighting for come Sunday.







# 2011 Men's FA Cup Finals



Members of Inter Godfather's pose for a group photo after beating Wild Bill's in the 2011 Men's FA Cup Finals on Dec. 18 at the Oleai Sports Complex.



Two Wild Bill's defenders try to avoid contact against the fallen Arkie Reusora.



Wild Bill's Jeeraphong Thoensaket goes for a high kick during the second half of their title game against Inter Godfather's.



Wild Bill's players get ready for defense, while referee Jerseh Angeles positions the ball for the penalty kick.



Inter Godfather's Arkie Reusora, right, uses his body to keep the ball, while Wild Bill's Dan Wesphal plays defense.



Inter Godfather's Peter Loken, center, battles two Wild Bill's strikers for the possession.



Inter Godfather's goalie Evan Hunsberger catches the ball for a save.



Inter Godfather's Chris Nelson in action against a Wild Bill's defender near the goal.



Inter Godfather's Masatoshi Otsuka is hounded by Wild Bill's defenders.



Inter Godfather's David Duenas has sole possession of the ball during the closing minutes of their title game against Wild Bill's.





**Heat staggers home against Celtics**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

**8 Patriots and 49ers lead Pro Bowl rosters**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## CNMI to compete in 3 major athletics events



The CNMI's Beo Ngirchongor, center, races against Guam sprinters during the 2011 CNMI National Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex. CNMI athletes are scheduled to compete in three major track and field tournaments next year.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**hree world competitions await CNMI track and field athletes next year.



First up for the Commonwealth is the 2011 IAAF World Indoor Championships, which will be held in Istanbul Turkey in March.

"We will be announcing See CNMI on Page 26

## 43 qualified for SBA finale roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Raymond, Raphael, and Ruselle Zapanta, and Robert Talavera. Those who qualified for the

King of the Lanes either won in the 12 monthly roll-offs or competed in at least six tour-



Saipan Bowling Association has named the 43 players who are qualified to compete in the 2011 season-ending roll-offs at the Capitol Bowling Center.

For the SBA Budweiser King of the Lanes, 24 bowlers made the grade. The list include Ben Aizon, Edward Baluyan, Ronald Batac, Efren Cacdac, Alex Castro, Benjie Cruz, Jonathan Eparwa, Jerry Kaneshi, Jae Yong Kim, Yong Woon Lee, Simon Manacop, Percy Omechel-ang, Paul Pangelinan, Bernardo Paraiso, Joe Sto. Domingo, Lito Teodoro, Tony Yarobwemal,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Last year's Top 3 finishers in the 2010 SBA King, Queen, and Prince of the Lanes pose with their trophies and prizes during the awards ceremony at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe.

## Lopsided triumphs in youth futsal league



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E Joshua Borja is sandwiched by Thundercats defenders during the first half of their game in the boys U18 division of the youth futsal league last Tuesday night at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Blowout was the theme of last Tuesday's games in the 2011 Saipan Soccer School

Youth Futsal League at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the first match for the girls U17 division, Astig Futsal crushed the Ayuyus, 10-1, while for the boys U18 game, IT&E clobbered the Thundercats, 9-0.

Jeraldine Castillo led Astig Futsal's victory after making a

hat trick. Kyla Ito contributed two goals, while Melody Johnson, Maica Aniana, Marielle Gariguez, Mikky Vargas, and Dianne Pablo chipped in one apiece. Amy Taylor was the lone Ayuyus striker to make it to the scoreboard.

Taylor had her only goal in the game in the first half and it was nowhere near the six-goal output of Astig Futsal in the opening 20 minutes of the match. Castillo logged twin goals in the first half, while Johnson, Aniana, Ito, and Gariguez posted one apiece. Astig Futsal added

See LOPSIDED on Page 26

## HS girls volleyball, soccer starts Jan. 10

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization will kick off its high school girls volleyball and soccer seasons on Jan. 10, 2012.

Participating schools for the 2012 volleyball season include two teams from Marianas High School, two squads from Saipan International School, and one team apiece from Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, and newcomer Marianas Baptist Academy.

The season will employ a double-round robin format

with four matches per game date starting at 4pm and 5pm.

All games will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays at the MHS Gymnasium with two games taking place simultaneously during each playing period.

A double-elimination postseason is scheduled after the conclusion of the regular season on Feb. 24 and 25, which will hopefully include Tinian High School.

Matches will have three sets with game point placed at 25 for the first two sets, under a cap of 30, and the final set being played regardless of the outcome of the

See HS on Page 26

